

Tuesday August 13 1996

Table of international news prices for various countries including Abu Dhabi, Albania, Andorra, etc.

The Guardian INTERNATIONAL

Printed in London, Manchester, Frankfurt and Roubaix

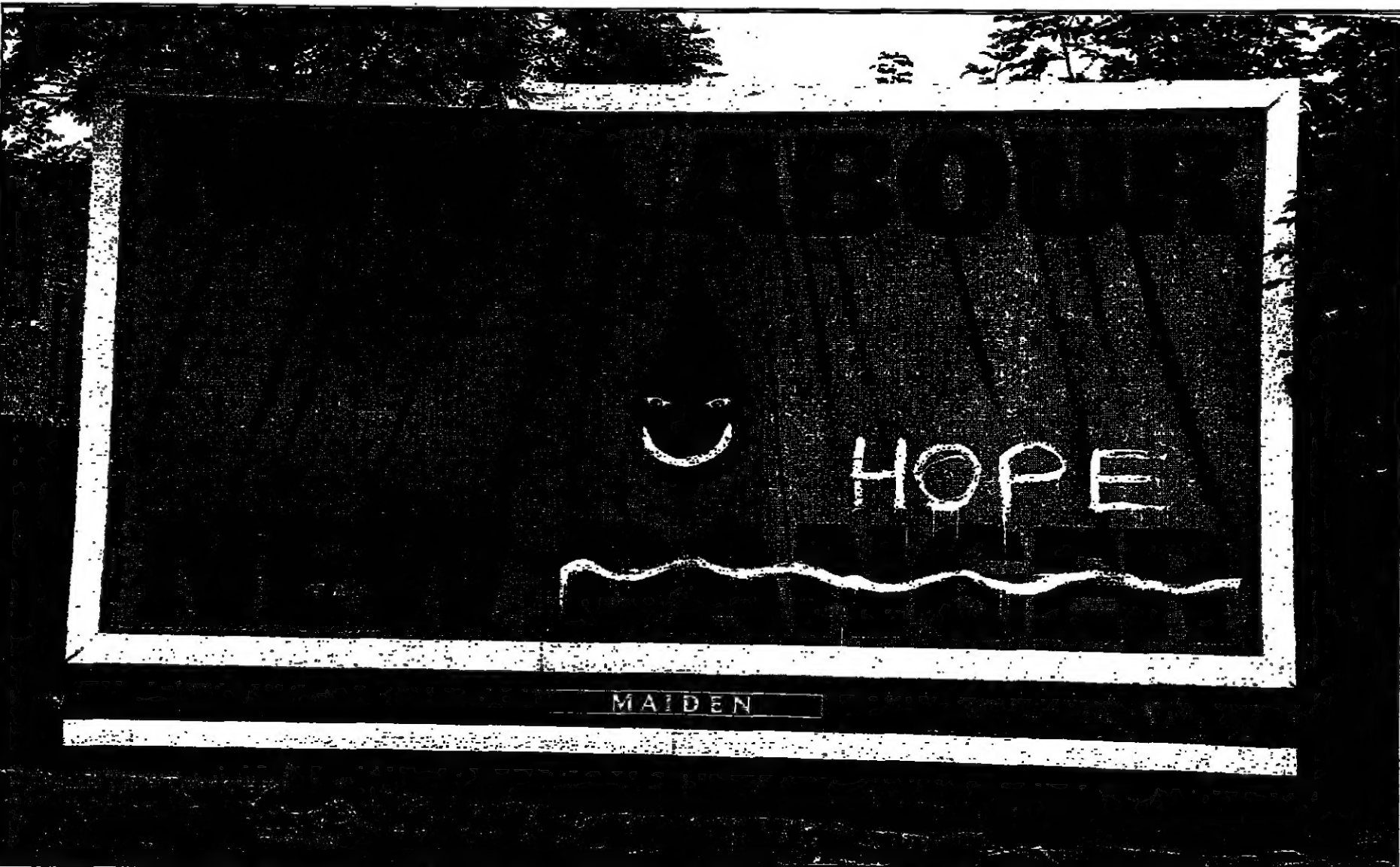
NEWSPAPER OF THE YEAR 48,630

Is the game up for tobacco companies? The last gasp. G2 with European weather.

The Festival Velázquez in Edinburgh. Arts G2, pages 10/11.

Education The myth of parent power. G2 pages 10/11.

Church criticises Tory 'demon Blair' poster



Public verdict... The offending Tory 'demon' poster amended on a hoarding in Alfreton in Derbyshire. A Labour poll showed wide resentment against such posters. PHOTOGRAPH: PAUL TOMES

'Puerile' use of satanic imagery endangers party's £10 million campaign with angry backlash

Rebecca Smithers THE Conservative Party's £10 million pre-election campaign strategy was thrown into turmoil last night, as highly-respected Church leaders warned that the use of "satanic" imagery in its latest advertising campaign was potentially dangerous.

Labour's election campaign manager Peter Mandelson retorted: "To show such contempt for the Bishop of Oxford shows how deep in the gutter the Tories are and how completely out of touch they are with ordinary, decent opinion in Britain."

In his statement, the Rev Harries said: "Vilifying members of other political parties is a puerile exercise and when that vilifying draws on satanic imagery it is not only silly but potentially dangerous."

The poster was not intended to appeal to the "sneering so-called intellectuals of Islington" but was a graphic way of making a point.

Tory HQ sources is a puerile exercise and when that vilifying draws on satanic imagery it is not only silly but potentially dangerous. Casting his message further afield, he said: "As the election draws near I hope all parties will resist the temptation to go in for personal abuse and dirty tricks and conce-

Doctor attacks 8-baby birth deal

Week Chaudhary THE doctor treating Mandy Allwood, who is carrying eight fetuses, yesterday urged her to end her arrangement to sell her story to the News of the World, claiming it could harm her health. Professor Kypros Nicolaides, of King's College Hospital, London also asked that Ms Allwood be left alone so decisions about her pregnancy could be taken in private. Making up her mind in the glare of publicity would be difficult. "It is extremely important that we try to enter a phase as soon as possible where aspects of her management become a private issue."

GPs refuse to aid gun vetting law

Duncan Campbell Crime Correspondent THE British Medical Association said yesterday that it would resist any move by MPs to make doctors responsible for authenticating the mental stability of firearms applicants.

Cereal killer shops prison

Duncan Campbell Crime Correspondent MUESLI could now replace porridge as the slang term for prison in the wake of an extraordinary legal case brought by an inmate. A man serving a life sentence for murder has won 25p compensation from the Home Office because the shop in the prison where he is serving his sentence refused to honour a 25p off voucher from a packet of Alpen he had bought. The Home Office will also be liable for an estimated £2,000 in legal costs.

MoD admits nuclear weapon accidents at airforce bases

Seamus Byrne THE Ministry of Defence yesterday began to buckle under the pressure of evidence and admitted there had been accidents involving nuclear weapons at American air bases in Britain. But it dismissed such incidents as "minor".

Inside Britain The dismemberment of Tiny Rowland's Loroño got underway with the group about to float its hotel business next month for £800 million. 2

World News Bosnia's Serb leaders were set to end defence over weapons inspections after Nato began preparations for a confrontation. 7

Finance Hopes of a further interest rate cut were boosted by the lowest rate of manufacturing output since 1980. 11

Sport Bruce Ritch was sensationally sacked by Arsenal. Leeds bought Lee Sharpe for £4.5 million and Terry Venables took over at Portsmouth. 16

The Open University Qualify to teach in Secondary Schools through Part-time study. Are you considering teaching as a career? Do you have a degree or are you about to get one? Then here is an established and successful programme from the Open University which can lead to full recognition as a qualified teacher.

Sketch

Jerry points way to God and power



Peter Preston

WE BEGAN, of course, with prayer. No Republican convention could start without them, commodiously blessing the hall, the delegates, the mayor and city of San Diego, the flag and the voting people. Much praying in the electoral marsh. Done from habit or deep belief? I left the delegates limbering up and did something I've not done for years. I went to church.

good children on an exponential curve of desecration, generation by generation. Johnston talks for almost an hour without a script and without a pause. Maybe, as he says, his 1,301st appearance, but still a class act. At the close, in the forecourt, he offers his Family Enrichment Packs (\$60, reduced from \$120). Pack one is books, including Grandkids' Hardest Questions and Inspire Your Kids to Greatness. Pack Two is videos, including Danielle Askar: How far can I go on a date? ("Jerry and his own teenage daughter discover the key biblical passage which is a clear road map to dating.") Both packs, plus that new book on Rula Sabetian, check in at a "special combo" priced \$100, saving \$95.

We've already had the pink envelope for general Church purposes and two blue envelopes for Jerry's purposes; every penny to good works, because a businessman has paid his air fares and hotels. All very strange. But mockable! Only with an uneasy feeling. This is a very foreign country. These are pleasant, prosperous folks. But what does this Kansas roadshow remind you of? It reminds you of Ross Perot and Pat Buchanan and every politician banding off at this prayerful convention. The Johnston style isn't Church style (not Runcie or Carey or Dom Basili). In the levers of the pulpit, in the fears he arouses, in the virtuous dreams he dreams, Jerry speaks the language of politics. Or maybe the politicians speak the language of preachers.

At any rate, there's no gap in between, no separate tone of Church and State. He could be doing his bit on the conversion podium, a warm-up act for General Colin Powell. And here's the unique American rub, the super special combo.

Some countries (like Pakistan) offer teenagers with a yen for power the choice of democratic politicking or joining the army. Two routes to the presidential mansion. Some countries (like Iran) offer politicians and clerics similarly split opportunity. But only America, and probably only the Republican Party, offers politicians and generals and clerics the same chance of sway in the selfsame language. Let's call it the ultimate combo.

Johnston's patent points, however, are really only the pegs on a washing line of little stories. He was a teenage dropout and druggie. Then, one day, the Lord entered him. His dad and mum weren't much into religion. "The First Church of the Deep Freeze," says Jerry. But a week after he went home with God, they had joined the faith, and his 60-year-old pa travels with him on his mission still.

Tales from outside the family circle are less immediately uplifting. Kids put acid on their tongues and plunge out of sixth-floor windows. Kids are raped and murdered. Kids become vegetarians in drunk driving car crashes. There's a constant undertow of menace, of bad things happening to



Alexander Lebed, after agreeing with the Chechen rebel leader on the need for a rapid ceasefire. PHOTOGRAPH BY DAVID BRALUCHI

Lebed gets free hand in Chechnya

James Meek in Moscow

BORIS Yeltsin is to give his national security adviser Alexander Lebed unprecedented powers to solve the crisis in Chechnya, the separatist general said yesterday after a lightning visit to the separatist territory.

Gen Lebed said he had met the rebel military leader, Aslan Maskhadov, and agreed on the need for a rapid ceasefire before talks on autonomy. Despite the general's words, and telephone talks between Gen Maskhadov and the Russian commander in the field, there was no sign of a respite in the savage fighting which began a week ago when rebels stormed into the Chechen capital, Grozny.

Last night Interfax news agency reported that separatist fighters had launched a surprise attack on the Russian forces' main base in Chechnya, Khankala airfield outside Grozny. Yeltsin, after what he described as "an evening stroll around Chechnya" - his car was shot at twice - Gen Lebed said he expected President Yeltsin to sign a decree soon giving the security council which Gen Lebed heads the lead role in settling the conflict.

He said the decree would entitle him to command all government armed forces in Chechnya, issue orders to all government agencies, control funds for the republic and sack ministerial deputies.

Gen Lebed said it would be pointless to declare a state of emergency in Chechnya. But if such a decree were signed, it would end the ineffective Moscow-backed civilian regime of Doku Zavgayev.

The general contemptuously accused Mr Zavgayev of having "delusions of grandeur", adding: "There is enough rubbish talked about Chechnya, especially from the head of the republic, Doku Zavgayev."

A desperate-sounding Mr Zavgayev said yesterday he was ready to talk to any rebels, and offer them amnesty and government posts. But it may be too late to save his own position. He was one of the main obstacles to gar-

ner attempts to make a deal with the separatists. Gen Lebed, who reported to Mr Yeltsin yesterday about his meeting with the separatists, said Gen Maskhadov had accepted that "Russia can get by without Chechnya, but Chechnya cannot get by without Russia" and agreed that some form of autonomy would be acceptable.

"We came to the conclusion: Russia could beat Chechnya, if it wanted, but at the cost of hundreds and thousands of lives," said Gen Lebed; the warring sides would need to be separated by at least a kilometre before talks could begin on an all-Chechen peace congress.

However, there are doubts about whether Gen Maskhadov or the separatist leader, Zelimkhan Yandarbiyev, really controls the actions of the armed groups.

Gen Lebed said he believed Gen Maskhadov could secure a ceasefire covering 80 per cent of rebels, while 10 per cent of "wolves" would continue fighting.

The security council secretary, a possible successor to Mr Yeltsin, said his unexpected appointment as presidential representative for Chechnya had been partly an attempt by intriguers to harm his political image by setting him an impossible task.

In a fresh sign of the gravity of the Chechen crisis, Mr Yeltsin chose not to begin a long holiday, but to remain in Moscow this week.

Reports from Grozny were more confused than ever yesterday after the evacuation of a group of journalists trapped in the centre by the fighting.

Russian officials denied rebel claims that they had stormed the Grozny headquarters of the FSB federal security service, killing most of the agents.

The Glasnost Defence Foundation, a Russian watchdog group, condemned the armed forces yesterday for shooting at journalists in Chechnya and accused them of trying to obstruct free reporting. It said helicopter gunships had opened fire last Thursday on a car being used by the international news organisation WTN, and a television crew from the American CNN network.

Festival review

Sorry script slays beautiful dragon

Derek Malcolm

Dragonheart Edinburgh Film Festival

THE Edinburgh Film Festival, 50 years old this year but young at heart, opened with a sword-and-sorcery epic which might have been made at the time the festival was inaugurated.

The reason was obvious. Rob Cohen's Dragonheart stars the voice, if not the body, of Edinburgh's most celebrated milkman, Sean Connery. He plays not St George but The Dragon, and he's the film festival's patron too.

What more could we ask for than his presence? Well, we might have had a better movie. There's about as much sex in Dragonheart as in The Sound of Music, though the wicked King (David Thewlis) does make a desecratory attempt to rape the leading lady, a peasant played like an animated doll by Dina Meyer.

But we hadn't come to see sex. We'd come to see Sean Connery, who still promises it for some, and a crowd outside the local Odeon on Sunday night gave him a thundering welcome, echoed by a standing ovation in the theatre. He seemed gratified - a superstar returning home at the age of 66.

The dragon itself is as good as Ray Harryhausen's dinosaurs. No higher compliment could possibly be paid. But where, oh where was Raquel Welch in skin-tight leather?

The story makes Sean the nicest possible beast - the last of his kind, hunted up hill and down dale circa 984 AD by Dennis Quaid's hunter until,

after a fight that's a stalemate, the two combine first to con-frightened villagers into parting with cash for a fake dragon-slaying exhibition and then to rid the kingdom of somewhere or other of its nasty monarch. It's an uneven match between Quaid and the beautifully animated dragon. And neither Peter Postlethwaite nor Julie Christie have much coherent to do as a wandering friar who looks like he's strayed out of Robin Hood or the King's mother who is ever so slightly disappointed in her vile son.

It's the script that's at fault, never doing more than touching upon the fantasy's real centre, which ought to have been about a lonely dragon who makes good in an evil world. What Spielberg would have done with such a story doesn't bear thinking about in the way of pathos and sentiment. Likewise Disney. This limp effort, so well animated by Scots-born Euan Macdonald, aided by Industrial Light and Magic, is divinely directed by Cohen, whose feel for a mythical time is perfunctory, and whose swordfights must have seemed laughable in a country which took Mel Gibson's Braveheart to its bosom.

Never mind. We all caught a glimpse of Connery, and that was a thrill. Kids ought to love the dragon. Even so, the oldest film festival in the world to run without a break ought to have been represented by something a bit better than this, even if it is now daffily called the Drambuie Edinburgh Film Festival, for sponsorship reasons.

This review appeared in some editors' yesterday.

Lonrho break-up launched with £800m flotation

Hotels business sell-off signals final chapter for conglomerate built up by Tiny Rowland

THE dismemberment of Lonrho, the international trading conglomerate built up over 35 years by Tiny Rowland, got under way yesterday with the disclosure that the group is to float off its hotels business next month for £800 million.

Lonrho plans eventually to demerge into three separately quoted companies. It will also have off its other non-mining activities later this year. Lonrho Africa, as it will be called, will consist of other predominantly African businesses collected over the years by Mr Rowland, but will include Dutton Forshaw and Jack Barclay, the car dealerships.

That will leave Lonrho as a pure mining company, including a highly prized 40 per cent stake in Ghana's Ashanti Goldfields, which City analysts already expect to become a takeover candidate.

The break-up of Lonrho, which has been generally welcomed by the City, is the final chapter for one of the most controversial companies Britain has seen.

At its height, Lonrho controlled about 700 companies in more than 50 countries, with Mr Rowland - once described by former prime minister Edward Heath as "the unacceptable face of capitalism" - the feared corporate raider at its helm.

However, the City lost its fondness for Lonrho as conglomerates went out of fashion in the 1980s, while Mr Rowland was seen as losing his touch after his long-running battle with Harrods owner Mohammed Al Fayed.

Announcing the flotation, Lonrho chief executive Dieter Bock, who ousted Mr Rowland two years ago, said it was sad to have to float off the hotels, but the move was in shareholders' best interests.

The new company - to be called Princess Metropole Hotels - owns five Metropole hotels in Britain: in Edgware Road, central London, and in Brighton, Birmingham, Bedford and Blackpool.

It also includes the New York-based Princess chain, which owns hotels in locations such as Bermuda, Accra, Palm Springs, and the Bahamas.

Excluded from the sell-off are Lonrho's African hotel and safari lodges in Kenya, Mozambique and Mauritius, which the new company will continue to manage, but which will be retained by Lonrho Africa.

The way was cleared for the flotation six weeks ago, when Lonrho regained full control of Metropole for £251 million, buying back a one-third stake controversially sold to the Libyan Arab Foreign Investment Company by Mr Rowland in 1992. The deal was attacked by Mr Rowland, who



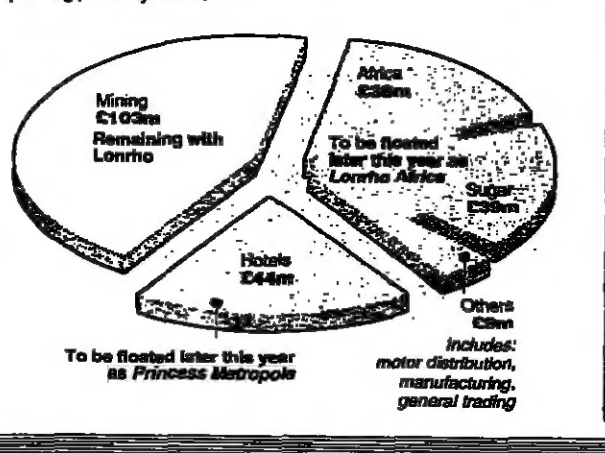
Old foes... Tiny Rowland, left, and Dieter Bock

sold the stake for £177.5 million. He said it was "madness" to pay so much.

Mr Bock last night shrugged off Mr Rowland's criticism, saying: "I would have been disappointed had he not made such a comment."

Mr Rowland, who has attacked Mr Bock continually since selling all but five million of his Lonrho shares last year, has also criticised the demerger as offering little value to shareholders.

Lonrho - where next?



Photocards slash fraud and save bank £1m

Jill Papworth and Sarah Ryle

THE Royal Bank of Scotland yesterday attacked rivals for failing to follow its lead in putting customer photographs on bank and credit cards, a practice which has cut fraud dramatically on its 500,000 plastic cards.

The bank disclosed that cases of fraud had fallen 99 per cent on its Highline multi-function card and 85 per cent on its credit card since it introduced photocards five years ago. This has saved the bank nearly £1 million.

Andrew Waldman, the bank's director of card services, said: "We have been surprised by the lack of take-up by the financial services in general. Only one building society, National & Provincial, has followed us using the same laser technology."

Now N&P has been taken over by Abbey National, its

photocards are no longer available, leaving the Royal Bank of Scotland the only issuer in the market.

But a spokeswoman for Midland Bank said: "We are not convinced that photocards have any tangible benefits. These figures don't stack up according to our research. US trials, for example, proved that a card with a photo of a monkey was accepted for transactions by retailers."

"We don't think it's fair to put the onus on retailers to police transactions. It's the bank's responsibility to invest in other technological methods of detecting fraud such as "chip" cards which can hold far more sophisticated information about cardholders than just physical attributes."

Barclays Bank, the largest plastic card issuer with 14 million cards, said photocards had worked for the Royal Bank of Scotland only because it issues relatively

few cards. "While only one or two cards on the market have photos, they are a novelty and easily discarded by thieves in favour of others. But if a large proportion of cards had photos, we believe criminals would start to use them," said a spokeswoman.

Barclays has invested part of its annual £20 million fraud fighting budget in a computer system designed to detect card fraud at check-outs. It claims this has cut fraud by 30 per cent over a year.

Lloyds Bank is assessing a pilot photocard scheme. So far it has offered photocards only to customers entitled to gold Mastercard and payment cards because they have the highest liabilities.

"We have not decided whether to widen the scheme because only half of those customers who could have taken it up have done so, which seems to suggest some people do not want a photo on their card," a spokeswoman said.

Soccer strike moves closer as players' union ballots members

Stuart Miller

THE prospect of English league football's first strike moved closer yesterday when the players' union began balloting members on industrial action despite claims from the Football League that such a move would be illegal.

Five days before the new season starts, the Professional Footballers' Association announced plans to ballot members in the First, Second and Third divisions on action which will involve refusing to play in front of television cameras.

The row erupted after the league decided to end a 30-year agreement to pay 10 per cent of its television income to the PFA.

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Debate on press deal and pregnancy overwhelms couple □ Private lives held up for scrutiny

Conception of a multiple nightmare

The hopes and joys of new life have exploded in the faces of Mandy Allwood and Paul Hudson. Vivek Chaudhary traces the trail

MANDY Allwood, in hiding in an Oxford hotel with her partner Paul Hudson, woke up yesterday to face the full effects of the deal in which she has sold her story to a Sunday newspaper. Graphic reports about her personal and business life, an alleged police investigation into a petrol fraud and comments from her family calling her a "money grabber" have appeared in national newspapers over the past two days. For Ms Allwood, it is all in stark contrast to the events of May, when she discovered that she was pregnant, marking the end of a two-year trauma in which her desire to have a baby with Mr Hudson dominated her life.

Ms Allwood met Paul Hudson in 1992, when she was working for General Accident Property Services. Both were involved in other relationships — Ms Allwood was married to Simon Pugh with whom she had a son named Charlie in 1991 and Mr Hudson was living with his partner Maria Edwards. The son of Jamaican immigrants, Mr Hudson was the epitome of the 1980s yuppie, a flamboyant young businessman who cruised nightclubs in his gold BMW and had a bit of a reputation as a "ladies man". He ran his own lettings company, called Chunkmonster Property, in Birmingham, and made the bulk of his money during the 1980s property boom. Ms Allwood was responsible for letting out some of Mr Hudson's properties and the two became close as Mr Hudson's business went from strength to strength. Their relationship is believed to have started after he asked her to manage his company in 1988.

"I liked the way she operated. She was really professional and really impressed me," Mr Hudson told the News of the World on Sunday. After leaving her husband in 1994, Ms Allwood and Charlie moved into a Southall flat next door to Mr Hudson. The couple soon ran into personal and professional problems. Mr Hudson's business folded in 1995, leaving him and Ms Allwood unemployed and reliant on state benefits for survival, although both continued to drive their BMWs. Described by friends as besotted with Mr Hudson, Ms Allwood became desperate to have his child and thought that her prayers had been answered when she became pregnant last October. Two months later Ms Allwood lost the child and spent Christmas in hospital recovering.

Fraught with the worry that she might never be able to give birth again, Ms Allwood became determined to have Mr Hudson's child and last April went to see her GP, asking if she could be prescribed fertility drugs. The doctor treated Ms Allwood with a seven-day course of the hormone metformin, which is injected into the arm, and Pregnyl tablets, which have to be taken at the same time. She was warned not to resume a full sexual relationship while on the drugs because she ran the risk of a multiple pregnancy. The advice went unheeded. Mr Hudson was unaware that Ms Allwood was undergoing fertility treatment but when she told him he ordered her to stop taking the drugs after two days of the seven-day course.

of last week to tell me that this story was about to break, that people were aware that it was going to happen. So they came in to see me and I have tried to get together a package that would be of maximum benefit to all those involved."

The nature of the story meant that a special deal had to be worked out, effectively linking the amount of money the couple receive to the number of babies that will be born alive. While neither Mr Clifford nor the News of the World will confirm the money involved, it is believed that the couple still stand to make at least £100,000 if none of the babies is born. If all the babies are born they could make up to £1 million for their story and sponsorship. Stuart Kuttner, managing editor of the News of the World, who was one of the key figures in negotiations, said yesterday there was no fine print linking the number of babies to the amount of money.

He told Radio 4's Today programme: "There is no step by step or contingency element whatsoever in the contract. The last thing the News of the World would want is for her to take any risk herself or to the children. We are not that kind of business." One thing the couple probably never expected was national newspapers competing to expose the most personal details of their lives. Ms Allwood's sister Jackie Burgess is quoted in yesterday's Daily Mirror as saying: "Mandy is infatuated with [Paul] but I don't think even having Paul's babies would keep him. I just want her to be careful — her health is already suffering."

Ms Burgess added: "Mandy is a very strong character and very ambitious herself. You meet someone with property and money and your head gets turned." Other newspapers claimed that the couple have county court judgments against them for failing to pay debts totalling almost £5,000. According to reports, the couple have run up debts at four different addresses and Ms Allwood has applied for credit cards at least four times under her own name and five times under her married name.

The Daily Mirror claimed that Ms Allwood and her partner are to be questioned by police over a number of petrol thefts in the Midlands area. And then there is Mr Hudson's relationship with Marie Edwards, whom he met in a nightclub in 1991, and Ms Allwood's former marriage to Mr Pugh.

Ms Edwards and Mr Hudson are reported to live together in Leicestershire and have a son called Kane, now aged two, and Zack, aged seven months, who was born while Mr Hudson was also seeing Ms Allwood. News of her multiple pregnancy has, according to friends, left Ms Edwards upset and stunned. Some reports claim that she was unaware that he was having a relationship with another woman. "She definitely has no intention of sharing Paul with Mandy — or anyone else for that matter."

Mr Pugh, a plasterer, claims he has spent thousands of pounds fighting court battles for access to his son and Ms Allwood was having an affair with Mr Hudson while she was still married to him, which she denies. Mr Allwood's mother, Marion, who lives in Coventry, says she has disowned her daughter because of her relationship with Mr Hudson and found out about the multiple pregnancy only in the press. "She has caused us so much hurt. She had a good home and a loving family but she turned her back on us."



Mandy Allwood and Paul Hudson... friends said she was besotted with him and became desperate to have his child

The whys and wherefores of fertility drug treatment

What are these fertility drugs that Mandy Allwood took? Injectable gonadotrophins are hormone injections made from the urine of menopausal women. They cause a woman to ovulate. Who takes them? Women who are failing to conceive because they are not ovulating. About one in six couples are infertile or under-fertile — ovulation is behind the problems of about 21 per cent of them. Male problems account for 26 per cent, tubal damage 14 per cent and unexplained problems 28 per cent.

Is this IVF? No. In vitro fertilisation is the extraction of eggs to be fertilised by sperm in a test tube. But fertility drugs are also taken in the early stages of IVF to increase the number of eggs the woman produces.

Can you get fertility drugs over the counter with a GP's prescription? No. GPs may prescribe a mild tablet if they think a woman is not ovulating properly, but anyone with real problems will be referred on to an NHS hospital or private fertility clinic.

Do you have to be in a stable relationship to get fertility drugs on the NHS? Not necessarily. It depends on the attitude of the local health authority — some will not pay for treatment unless the woman is married or has been cohabiting for some time. Others make no conditions. And GPs sometimes refuse to refer women for treatment.

What about private clinics? Those that do IVF are licensed by the Human Fertilisation and Embryology Authority, which requires them to consider the welfare of any child that may be born. This means looking at the domestic circumstances of the would-be parents. Clinics do not have to do it when treating women with fertility drugs, but the authority generally expects them to uphold the same standards.

Do women inject the drugs themselves? The patient can be taught to do so, but more often it is done by a district nurse or the GP. It must be done at the beginning of the patient's cycle and often other drugs are given first to suppress the woman's own hormones.

Does it work? Some women respond straight away and fall pregnant; others never do.

How does a multiple pregnancy come about? There is always a danger that a woman will overreact to the drugs. Doctors monitor the patient's reaction closely — often daily. If she is producing many eggs, she is told to refrain from sexual intercourse to avoid a multiple pregnancy. She will then be given a lower dose during a later cycle.

If a multiple pregnancy occurs, what is the usual procedure? Any multiple pregnancy carries dangers for both mother and babies. Doctors often advise a reduction in the numbers when four foetuses are conceived — even though quadruplets can be conceived naturally and survive.

Report: Sarah Bassey

Cash, fertility and a savage media

Ruaridh Nicol
JEAN Vince, who gave birth to sextuplets in May 1993, yesterday had a clear message for Mandy Allwood: "Do what's best for you and your kids and ignore what the papers say." Ms Vince should know. The media savaged her.

Ms Vince, then Gibbins, gave birth in St James's hospital in Leeds. While her children were being attached to drips and placed into ventilators, a deal was being struck between the parents and a publicity agent, Liverpool based Philip Eitinger. Her babies were to be optioned for sponsorship and their parents' story offered for sale. It was for the children's good because bringing up that many children is expensive. "We got in touch with Eitinger because he had been recommended to us," said Ms Vince. "We were totally in his hands because we needed the money for the children."



The Vincés and their babies... before the problems started

The deals quickly shaped up. Jean's partner Jan was signed up by Carling Black Label. They were also expecting a slew of offers from baby food and nappy making companies. The babies, Valerie, Gregory, Jessica, Stephanie, Rebecca and Katie, because of their place as only the third surviving set of sextuplets in Britain, were seen as the perfect advertisement. But by the Sunday following the birth, Jean and Jan were under attack.

our side of the story out." The nappy companies like their babies pure and so the sponsorship deals were fast slipping away. Although the couple married within two months of the birth, the papers — both tabloid and broadsheet — had seen their opportunity to take the moral high ground and wondered loudly why so much money had been spent making an unwed mother fertile. The Vincés said that they always intended to get married but waited because she was going into hospital. "Everybody expected the perfect family," she said. "But who has one of those these days." The News of the World, preferring to avoid the trickier subjects, failed to put their story across.

Three years later her children are all doing well. Despite the lack of support, the Vincés are coping with the massive brood. "We get a lot of practice," she said. "Although at times it gets pretty frustrating, especially when they're all ill."

FIFTY

MICHELIN PILOTS NUMBER 50 VICTORIES

Michelin Pilots have notched up an impressive 50 victories in the three years since Michelin entered the British Touring Car Championship. That's more than all other competing tyre manufacturers put together and 58% of the total number of stars since 1993. Moreover, Michelin Pilots won the Championship outright in 1994 and 1995. And it should come as no surprise that most of the famous "Pilots" this year are racing on Michelin — Cleland, Harvey, Leslie, Menu, Radisich, Rydell and Winkelhock to name but a few. And no wonder that this year Michelin Pilot tyres are also the choice of virtually all the leading car marques — BMW, Ford, Honda, Nissan, Peugeot, Renault, Vauxhall and Volvo.

Make Michelin Pilot tyres your first choice. After all, they are the choice of champions.

MICHELIN Pilot

MoD's belated attempt to explain away evidence of 1959 weapons accident unlikely to satisfy critics

Nuclear denial 'not enough'

Seumas Milne

THE Government's attempts yesterday to explain away the first documentary evidence of a nuclear weapons accident in Britain — directly contradicting years of Ministry of Defence denials — is unlikely to satisfy growing demands for a full account.

The 49 Squadron record book at RAF Wittering, Cambridgeshire, for May 1959 — first revealed at the weekend and now lodged at the Public Record Office in Kew — recorded that during "Exercise Mayflight" a "2,000lb nuclear weapon was accidentally jettisoned from a Canberra bomber, resulting in severe damage to the aircraft".

An MoD spokeswoman said last night that it was not yet clear whether such an accident had taken place. In any case it could not involve a nuclear weapon because such exercises never used live warheads. "It would have been an inert training round, or dummy," she insisted.

She said that she could not explain why the squadron commander had used the "phraseology" he did because it was so long after the event. Government explanations of the other main focus of concern over nuclear weapons accidents — the growing evidence of radiation leaks from a burnt-out US nuclear-armed aircraft at Greenham Common in the late 1960s — seem no more likely to silence its chorus of critics.

The MoD said that leaked radiation research carried out in 1961 showed two government scientists showing contamination of the surrounding area with enriched uranium 235 — the fissile component of nuclear weapons — had been contradicted by studies in 1986 and 1994.

Even if the original report was correct, the MoD said yesterday, the levels of radiation were relatively low and it would be impossible now to determine the cause of its release. Labour and the Liberal Democrats called for the Government to "come clean".

John Reid, Labour's defence spokesman, warned yesterday that the "MoD should have learned from long experience that a cover up becomes a bigger story in the end".

A CND spokesman, Eddie Gonçalves, said: "Each line of defence looks more implausible than the last. If the MoD is right in claiming there have only been minor incidents, then they have obviously nothing to lose by publishing the details, but they refuse to do that."

In 1991, Sir Ronald Oxburgh, the MoD's chief scientific adviser, reported 20 "incidents" involving nuclear weapons. He remarked that although he had no evidence of serious damage to the weapons, he had no way of knowing whether he was given all the information.



FIREFIGHTERS search homes in Black Bull Road, Folkestone, yesterday after six people were injured when a shop collapsed due to the weight of the rainwater from flash floods writes Lucy Manning. A Kent Fire Brigade spokesman said: "It tumbled like a pack of cards."

Folkestone High Street was left under six inches of water and firefighters using inflatable boats had to rescue 42 people from a row of flooded houses. Five were taken to hospital with minor injuries.

Dover, Folkestone and Hythe were without electricity. The floods caused disruption on the roads near Ashford and the M20, which was down to one lane. The rain caused signalling problems at Ashford, which disrupted rail services. Eurostar trains passing through Ashford International Station were also affected.

Labour 'would discuss reform with monarchy'

Rebecca Smithers Political Correspondent

LABOUR appeared to concede yesterday that Tony Blair would have to consider reforms to the monarchy, after publication of plans by one of its own parliamentary candidates calling for the Queen to be stripped of her constitutional powers and reduced to a ceremonial figurehead.

In a 7,500-word pamphlet entitled *Long to Reign Over Us*, published yesterday by the Fabian Society, Paul Richards urges Tony Blair to end "Labour's last taboo" by addressing the need for reform.

Mr Richards, Labour's parliamentary candidate for Billericay in Essex, has put together proposals which include scrapping the Civil List, the transfer of all powers encompassed by Royal Prerogative to the Commons Speaker, a new national anthem and a referendum on the future of the monarchy every 10 years.

The Labour Party, to be serious about governing Britain, cannot duck the issue any longer," he writes. "This issue is something that the Labour Party has managed particularly well in its 96-year history. No serious attempt has been made by any Labour government to reform the monarchy, nor has any serious suggestion been made of reform while in opposition."

Labour sources moved swiftly to distance the party from the report, insisting it did not constitute party policy, and that Mr Blair would not be influenced by it.

Frank Dobson, the shadow environment secretary, said: "Tony Blair has consistently expressed his great admiration for the job the Queen does. There is no prospect of a Labour government seeking to alter the role or the political status of the Queen."

'Oh God, what an injustice' — Welsh seek pardon for working class hero hanged after 1831 uprising

James Mollie

HE WAS a working class hero when Karl Marx was barely a teenager. Today, 135 years after Dic Penderyn, a martyr of the 1831 Merthyr rising, was executed, Welsh campaigners plan to petition the Home Secretary, Michael Howard, for a pardon.

They hope recognition that Penderyn was innocent will help turn the still modest annual commemoration of his death into a national day of remembrance.

"This is a wrong that really has to be righted," said Charlie Gale, a Labour councillor in Cardiff for 23 years. "The whole episode was a great injustice."

In 1831 iron and coal workers took over the Mid Glamorgan town for nearly five days. They are famously claimed to have paraded under a sheet daubed with the blood of a lamb and a calf.

Up to two dozen men, women and children died, and another 74 were injured in the subsequent fighting, and Penderyn, aged 23, was accused of stabbing a soldier, one Private Black of the 93rd Highlanders. He was taken to Cardiff and hanged, his last words being: "Oh God, what an injustice."

Rhodri Morgan, Labour MP for Cardiff West, said: "Wales has never been able to decide whether to regard Penderyn as an innocent martyr or as a victim of authorities determined to stamp out trouble."

Others accused of leading the disturbances were transported. Forty years later, a man called Iwan Parker is said to have confessed to the attack on his deathbed.

News in brief

Tube strike off as ballot is called

TODAY'S 24-hour walkout on the London Underground was called off yesterday after the rail unions agreed to put a shorter hours and pay package to a ballot of the 2,500 drivers.

Major boost for Goldsmith

THE financier Sir James Goldsmith yesterday appointed a former Downing Street aide as his Referendum Party's chief press officer. Ian Beaumont, 38, spent seven-and-a-half years working in the No 10 press office under Margaret Thatcher and John Major.

'Glorious Twelfth' troubles

THE OPENING day of the red grouse shooting season — the "Glorious Twelfth" — got off to a turbulent start yesterday. A gamekeeper was injured when around 50 animal rights campaigners charged across Stanhope Common, west Durham, waving sticks and flags at a 12-strong shooting party.

Boys' blood samples wanted

FRENCH investigators hunting the killer of the Cornish schoolgirl Caroline Dickinson confirmed yesterday that they wish to take blood samples from the four teenage boys who travelled with her Launceston College party to Brittany. Caroline, who was 13, was found raped and suffocated three weeks ago in the small youth hostel dormitory she was sharing with four classmates in the town of Pléne Fougères.

BBC efficiency reviewed

VIRGINIA Bottomley, the National Heritage Secretary, yesterday ordered a fresh efficiency study into the BBC to review the level of the television licence fee currently at £89.50 for colour and £30 for black and white. Consultants Braxton Associates will examine the corporation's progress in achieving greater efficiency and exploiting additional sources of revenue.

Railtrack's dire warning

A SHOCK-tactic cassette tape, using graphic language to warn drivers of the dangers of missing automatic level crossings, was issued yesterday by Railtrack. It tells motorists: "If you get hit by a high-speed train, the police could be looking for your remains over as much as three-quarters of a mile of track. What remains of you and your passenger could end up being scraped off the track and put into several plastic bags."

Prisoner found hanged

THE Prison Reform Trust called for further training in suicide prevention for prison staff yesterday after a 21-year-old remand prisoner was found hanged in Armitage jail, Leeds. Andrew Smith, of Beeston, Leeds, had been in the Victorian prison since the end of May, facing robbery charges. The acting prison governor, Chris Walker, said that the dead man was not on the suicide watch list introduced after a spate of deaths between 1988 and 1992.

Correction

LISTENING figures for Virgin 1215AM's Russ and Jono Breakfast Show fell by 5.2 per cent between the first and second quarters of 1996, and not as reported in Saturday's Guardian. The decline recorded in figures from Radio Joint Audience Research Ltd was in line with the general 5 per cent fall in breakfast listening during the period.

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مكتبة العدل



Investors get a slice of Macbeth action

Dan Glatzer on how £500 buys into a 'fine tragic screenplay'

THE advertising proclaimed: "Your chance to share in the next exciting chapter of British film history." It could equally have said: "So you wanna be in the movies?"



Helen Baxendale: 'I know how hard it is to get funds'

The latest trend in the British film industry got under way yesterday at a castle near Fife: Macbeth, starring Jason Connery, son of Sean, Helen Baxendale and Brian Blessed, and a small array of private investors.

Macbeth is the first production from Macbeth plc, an offshoot of Gramplan Television and Cromwell Productions Limited, the company that made The Deer, two straight-to-video epics.

thing about the unconventional way of funding," she said. "I think there's a lot of snobbery going on. I've written a short film so I know how difficult it is to get funding."

The film's producer, Bob Carruthers, denied the idea was just a cinematic variation of vanity publishing. "It would be like vanity publishing if there wasn't an established company behind it," he said. "We learned a lot of lessons from The Bruce. It got quite a bad reception in some places but it's working much better for TV sales. It was a bit like being struck by lightning because Braveheart came out at the same time."

The movies do not necessarily represent a good money-making venture, Macbeth, to be followed by King Lear next year, should be released at the end of the year, if all goes well. Investors should not hold their breath waiting for a return, however.

"The investors in Chasing the Deer will take five to 10 years to get their money back," said Carruthers. "For many people in the film world that would be a result."



Balvaird Castle, Tayside, where Macbeth plc is filming the tragedy starring Jason Connery, above right, Baxendale and an array of small investors. PHOTOGRAPH BY MURDO MACLEOD

Insurance offered for drug injury

Owen Bowcott

INSURANCE against the consequences of drug-taking was put on sale yesterday by a firm of City brokers in the face of claims that the policy will encourage teenage ecstasy abuse.

Goodfellow Rebecca Ingrams Pearsons Ltd is offering up to £100,000 in lump sum compensation for those who suffer "permanent total disability" after taking non-injected drugs.

With a premium of £15 a year, the policy is aimed at parents who fear they cannot control their children, rather than at young people who believe they are in danger from swallowing drugs such as ecstasy, LSD or amphetamines.

Around 70 people have been killed by ecstasy since the late 1980s, including Leah Betts of Essex, who died after taking the drug at her 18th birthday party.

Leah's mother, Janet, yesterday attacked the insurance plan as exploitative. "This kind of thing gives me a funny sick feeling," she said. "I wonder what the world is coming to. It is just another sales pitch, and this man is as bad as the dealers. I don't think many parents will take up this offer."

The insurance, which also provides compensation for death and dismemberment, is underwritten by one French and three German insurers, all of whom have asked to remain anonymous.

low Rebecca Ingrams Pearsons scheme, which allows prostitutes who cannot work because of back pain to claim up to 90 per cent of their declared earnings over the previous 12 months.

Simon Burgess, managing director of the broking firm, said: "This is a unique disability insurance based on figures which show that the risk of deaths from drugs like ecstasy is considerably less than from smoking."

"I am a parent myself and I know that I will not be able to regulate my children's social life. I felt that since there is a chance they will take drugs then there should be some insurance, because if they become ill, or die it is an accident."

The firm received more than 800 inquiries yesterday. "Most of those who rang were parents. They are the ones who will have to pick up the pieces. The youngsters probably won't be interested. They think it's never going to happen to them."

"I know there may be some knee-jerk reactions against the policy, but I'm highlighting the dangers, not encouraging them."

Among other risks the firm has insured against are: contracting the degenerative illness CJD, injury or death from terrorism, giving birth to twins, and falling ill with salmonella food poisoning.

The latest policy does not cover drugs such as heroin taken intravenously, although the final wording making such a distinction clear is still being drafted by lawyers.

Groundsman's appeal dismissed by tribunal

John Ezard

IN HAPPIER days, Tony Pocock could think of nothing better than being a head cricket groundsman. Asked about his worst experience in his job, he said: "I can't think of one."

But yesterday his 30 year career at Fenner's, Cambridge, ended in defeat and depression. Mr Pocock, aged 47 - a single man who was married to his work and still in love with it - lost an industrial tribunal case.

He rejected his charge that Cambridge university had constructively dismissed him and breached his contract by offering him a job preparing synthetic pitches at an indoor sports centre.

Mr Pocock, who joined Fenner's when he was 17, had been head groundsman since 1980 and was only the fourth person since 1890 to hold the position. He said afterwards that he was "very disappointed indeed" by the decision. He has not worked since late 1994 because of depression and stress.

Mr Pocock complained that the university had forced him out of his job after complaints about the pitches he prepared for first class games against Worcestershire and New Zealand in the summer of 1994.



Tony Pocock: criticised for Fenner's pitch preparation

ner's wicket had to be re-laid on the orders of the Test and County Cricket Board. Mr Pocock suffered from depression when an outside contractor was hired.

The TCCB had threatened to withdraw Fenner's status as a venue for first class cricket.

According to evidence to the tribunal, Harry Brind, the TCCB's wicket inspector wrote: "We must stress that the renovation work will be to no avail unless in future the correct methods of pitch preparation and ground maintenance are employed."

"dreadfully" wet start to the season. "It would not dry out. There was nothing I could have done to prevent that."

He was supported by the 1995 edition of Wisden cricket annual which said "the wet weather did not help Tony Pocock". His counsel, Ingrid Simla, told the hearing: "They decided to use Mr Pocock as a scapegoat."

Mr Pocock said in evidence, "I loved my job as head groundsman. I would not have willingly given it up for all the world. I had anticipated that it would be a job for life."

Tony Lemois, university director of physical education, said he had been satisfied with Mr Pocock's performance. The new, better-paid job was offered because he thought Mr Pocock might wish to move away from the "immense pressures" at Fenner's. "It is bewildering why he has misunderstood the situation."

The tribunal decided that Fenner's management committee had lost confidence in Mr Pocock and wanted to persuade him to resign.

It had acted inconsiderately in offering him the new job in a way that appeared to threaten his position at Fenner's. But it had dealt with his grievances satisfactorily and assured him his position was not under threat.

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Jonathan Freedland on the winners and losers as Republicans gather in San Diego to try to talk up their flagging presidential campaign

A neutered Newt at the Convention of the Damned

ONCE he was King of the Hill, hailed as the de facto leader of the Republican Party and the most dynamic force in US politics. But tonight Newt Gingrich will address the Republican convention as a backbencher, reduced to speaking for just seven minutes in a slot usually reserved for low-level functionaries.

Republican nominee-to-be Bob Dole from Mr. Gingrich, who continues to have the lowest poll ratings since Richard Nixon. Despite his official title as General Chairman of the convention, Mr. Gingrich will appear at the podium only rarely. More telegenic deputies will take the chair instead. One cartoon published yesterday showed a junior emptying dustbins under the caption, "Newt's role in San Diego."

ponous Huffington, the Cambridge-educated Republican hostess. "There was a feeling that he was so damaged that he should not have a prominent role." Mr. Gingrich's negative ratings have been stubbornly high since last autumn when he led a disastrous partial shutdown of the US government. His unpopularity increased when he complained about being seated at the back of Air Force One on the way to Israel prime minister Yitzhak Rabin's funeral. America's

OUT



Out on a limb: Gingrich, Lamar Alexander and Pete Wilson

IN



Inside track: Pat Buchanan and Steve Forbes

tabloids dubbed him a "cry-baby" and the name stuck. Aides insist that the Speaker — who used to boast that he was more powerful than the President — has not been sidelined. In a plucky attempt at spin, Mr. Gingrich's British-born press secretary, Tony Blankley, said the Speaker had actually volunteered for an offpeak slot to lure the TV networks to extend their coverage of the convention in San Diego.

Dole. Noting that polls show Republicans and Democrats in a dead heat in congressional races — while Mr. Dole lags far behind Mr. Clinton — Mr. Blankley asked, "Who's hurting whom?" The eclipsing of Newt Gingrich is only the most obvious example of how San Diego has divided the Republican Party's top ranks into winners and losers. Also out is former Tennessee governor Lamar Alexander, who enjoyed a brief boomlet when he took third place in the Iowa presi-

dential contest in February. Mr. Alexander has disappeared from the national scene since then, and has been spotted around San Diego apparently looking for people to talk to and hands to shake. He flew to San Diego on an ordinary flight, along with the reporters who used to cover him. Also out in the cold are the moderate, abortion rights supporting wing of the party, California governor Pete Wilson — a nominal host of the convention — will not speak at all, after he

was offered and rejected a humble slot. He, too, was once a rival to Bob Dole. Looking like a winner, by contrast, is millionaire Steve Forbes. Grinding his way around the convention centre, the geeky former candidate may have been a loser in politics, but he's a winner in policy. His supply-side economics has been adopted by Mr. Dole, who last week proposed a 15 per cent across-the-board tax cut, and his closest ally, Jack Kemp, is now the party number two. "They're sing-

ing my kind of music," he crows. Less sunny, but similarly upbeat, is the rightwing firebrand Pat Buchanan. Superficially a loser, his anti-immigration, protectionist rhetoric has been adopted in the party manifesto — and both the platform and the running mate are committedly anti-abortion. He may look like a loser, but he's really a winner. For Bob Dole, who will be lauded as a hero on Thursday, it could be the other way around.



Sinking ship suddenly finds a new buoyancy... Republican supporters cheer Bob Dole from a ship off San Diego

PHOTOGRAPH: SAM MIRCOWICH

Polls give Dole a little lift

Running mate Jack Kemp has raised Republican spirits and Dole's ratings, says **Martin Walker**, but they have a long way to go yet to challenge Clinton

THE Republican Party convention opened in San Diego yesterday with an overdue display of unity, and suddenly buoyed by opinion polls suggesting that the ticket of Bob Dole and Jack Kemp has already cut back President Clinton's lead to single figures.

Everything began to fall into place over the weekend, as the rightwingers and the Republican moderates in the abortion pro-choice wing agreed to rally behind the ticket, mainly because they feared the impact of a Clinton landslide upon Republican senators, congressmen and state office-holders.

Pat Buchanan announced "the temporary truce of San Diego", and called on his supporters to put aside any dreams of a third party, and rally behind the effort to defeat President Clinton. "America does not need a third party. It needs a fighting second party that means what it says and says what it means," Mr. Buchanan told a rally of his supporters.

ticket yesterday, boasted that this week's convention embodied "the largest number of religious conservative delegates at a nominating conference of a major political party in the modern American political period. The evangelical vote is now the base of the Republican Party, and the Roman Catholic vote is now the swing vote in American politics."

the cold war, built the modern Republican Party and brought me into it." Former president George Bush also spoke last night, to hail his old rival for the presidency as "my old friend and comrade in arms, Bob Dole."

base, and began the process of persuading swing voters to take a second look at Mr. Dole. Not one of the opinion polls is worth much, until after the kids go back to school in September and their parents finally start thinking about the election, Mr. John Sununu, former White House chief of staff to President Bush said yesterday, "What's happening now is about restoring morale."

They can't be serious

How the cream of US commentators see the convention, and the issues and personalities likely to dominate it

DEPORTING OUR CHILDREN IMMIGRANT bashing is due to hit a new low when the Republicans promise to deny citizenship to the children of illegal aliens. This startling and truly mean proposition would dramatically change a bedrock principle of this democracy: no matter where you come from or who your parents are, if you are born on this soil, you are forever an American.

There are all sorts of practical reasons for rejecting this change. Would hospitals have to assume new responsibilities for investigating the citizenship status of new mothers before registering births? Once before, this country denied citizenship to an entire class of native-born Americans whose ancestors had come from Africa not with visas but listed on bills of sale. A great war was fought over their status in this society, and it was resolved in favour of citizenship and full freedom.

For 138 years, every individual born within these borders has started life as the political equal of every other child born here that day. It would be destructive and incredibly vindictive to take that gift from some on the pretext of saving money or discouraging a few desperate pregnant women from sneaking across the border so that their children be guaranteed a better life. Thoughtful Republicans should be mortified by this language and make every effort to have it removed from the platform.

TOSEY TURVYLAND THE stage for the convention could not be more set if they had glued the folding chairs to the floor. Dress codes have been issued, speeches choreographed. The overall goal will be a sort of reverse Olympic broadcast — a live event that looks as if it were on tape. This convention was designed to be less spontaneous than a Kabuki play, but suddenly there is a new wrinkle

in the script. For the moment, the Republicans and Democrats are not only talking issues but actually taking opposing positions on the biggest one. The presidential campaign now looks as if it will be about tax cuts versus balanced budgets. Bill Clinton and the Democrats are newly converted fiscal realists; Bob Dole improbably heads the Let's Party crowd.

Mr. Dole, a longtime balanced-budget man, picked up Jack Kemp's tax-cut theories as well as Mr. Kemp himself. We are now in the interesting position of watching a contest in which the Democrats talk about avoiding debt, while Mr. Dole urges voters to believe they can have guns and butter and maybe even a little cream on top. — *Leader, New York Times*

FAMILY OF WOES BILL Clinton and Bob Dole will probably each insist that he would be more protective of families values than the other guy. Is there a politician alive who stands against family values? Americans are awash in worry about the stresses that contemporary life is putting on families and particularly on children. The divorce rate is the world's highest; nearly half of all new marriages end in divorce. With polls showing that Americans overwhelmingly want government to strengthen families, there exists an unparalleled opportunity for both talk and action. Indeed, victory in November may go to the candidate that best capitalises on this deep yearning. — *Leader, Los Angeles Times*

Democrat saturation advertising wins strike first in TV 'air war'

Martin Walker in San Diego

HIS campaign war chest exhausted by the end of March after the long primary battles, Bob Dole gets a massive cash injection of \$72 million this week, his share of the federal election funds which are released once he is the formal nominee.

convention, the Democrats have aired over 100 TV ads in the San Diego area, and another 600 in the rest of California, an air war that has left Republican congressmen clamouring for the counter-attack that Mr. Dole can at last afford to begin.

paid. RNC chairman Haley Barbour has raised huge sums. In July alone, the RNC raised \$23 million, almost double the previous monthly record. In the first six months of this year, Mr. Barbour raised \$42 million in "hard" money, which can be spent on TV, and another \$38 million in "soft" money, which may only be

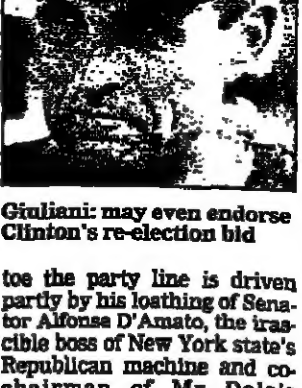
proved right, but I'm afraid we have lost some swing voters whose minds are made up." Haley Barbour's team say they are following the Braveheart strategy, after the Mel Gibson film of the Scottish hero, who told his troops to hold and hold and hold until the decisive moment.

alone among New York's Republican heavies, Mr. Giuliani waited until days before the state's March Republican primary to announce that he would vote for former senator Bob Dole but even then insisted: "Whatever you call this, it is not an endorsement."

He might have been one of the stars of San Diego: a charismatic Republican mayor of an overwhelmingly Democratic city who has beaten crime, reformed welfare and slashed public spending.

Maverick mayor poops party

Giuliani: may even endorse Clinton's re-election bid



toe the party line is driven partly by his loathing of Senator Alfonse D'Amato, the trashy boss of New York state's Republican machine and co-chairman of Mr. Dole's campaign.

identified with a party that wants to deny US citizenship to the offspring of illegal immigrants could prove particularly damaging. Mayor Giuliani is not the only Republican big-hitter who will be on show in San Diego. Los Angeles mayor, Richard Riordan, himself seeking to forge an independent image, will stay away too, while several prominent governors, such as William Weld of Massachusetts, and Pete Wilson of California, have been denied speaking slots.

Mr. Giuliani has given conflicting signals over whether he will ultimately come out for Dole. On Sunday he applauded the Republican contender's choice of former American football hero Jack Kemp as his running mate. But he also gently defended his decision to stay home.

Since March, the Clinton-Gore campaign has spent \$18 million on TV ads, and their allies on the Democratic National Committee have spent another \$20 million hammering away at the Republicans. The trade unions have raised another \$35 million that will be spent attacking the Republicans.

plained Indiana congressman Mark Souder. "Where is the Republican cavalry?" demanded Ohio congressman Robert Ney. "We're getting killed out here."

spent on indirect campaigning, like voter education projects. But Mr. Barbour has been sitting on the cash mountain, waiting for the intense campaigning season of September and October.

Over the last two years he has attacked Republican positions on welfare and immigration while backing White House initiatives on crime and gun control.

That gamble backfired disastrously when the Republican outsider won and proceeded to ignore the mayor's anxious phone calls for more than a week. Mayor Giuliani's backing of Mr. Cuomo is also considered to have cost New York the 1996 Republican convention.

The mayor's reluctance to

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Weapons inspections to resume

Serbs face ultimatum

Julian Borger in Zagreb

BOSNIAN Serb leaders promised to end their defiance over weapons inspections yesterday after Nato began preparations for a potential confrontation, ordering isolated units back to base and urging aid workers to leave Serb-held territory.

The security measures, designed to minimise the risk of casualties or hostage-taking in the event of hostilities with the Serbs, were part of an operation code-named Fear Naught. The operation began yesterday afternoon, on the orders of Lieutenant-General Sir Michael Walker, the commander of Nato ground forces.

It was launched in response to an incident at the Bosnian Serb military headquarters in Han Pijesak, where Serb soldiers prevented Nato troops from inspecting an arms dump in contravention of the Dayton peace accord.

Just over an hour after Fear Naught began, the Bosnian Serb president, Biljana Plavsic, promised the site would be opened for inspection. She gave the assurance to Peter Feith, an adviser to the new overall commander of the 50,000-strong I-For peacekeeping force, Admiral Joseph Lopez.

After the meeting in the Serb stronghold of Pale, Mr Feith told reporters an inspection would be carried out in the next 48 hours.

The Nato secretary-general, Javier Solana, confirmed the climbdown: "Let me tell you that the most important violation... as far as Dayton is concerned has been solved."

Mrs Plavsic took over the Bosnian Serb leadership in July after Radovan Karadzic, the wartime leader indicted for war crimes, stood down. She said yesterday the Bosnian Serbs were "fully committed to the Dayton agreement" and described the crisis as "a small misunderstanding".

Nato is aware that Bosnian Serb political leaders have given undertakings in the past that their military commander, General Ratko Mladic, who has been indicted for genocide by the UN, has refused to implement.

Major Brett Boudreau, a Nato spokesman in Sarajevo, said Fear Naught would remain in force "until such

time at least when we get into the site in Han Pijesak, under conditions of our choosing".

A Nato officer said yesterday "it looks like at the political level, they've got the message". Fear Naught was the first in a series of escalating responses to military defiance from warring factions in Bosnia. He said the next phase, in the event of continued defiance, would be air-strikes, which would require approval from the North Atlantic Council. I-For troops had

Croats restrict UN extension

THE Croatian president, Franjo Tudjman, will allow the United Nations to extend its temporary administration of the country's last Serb enclave by three months only, the state news agency, Hina, reported yesterday, writes Julian Borger in Zagreb.

The current mandate of the UN Transitional Authority in Eastern Slavonia expires on January 15. An agreement signed last November gives the Croatian government and the local Serbs the right to request an extension of up to twelve months before the region is returned to full Croatian sovereignty.

Mr Tudjman gave his reason the plight of 80,000 Croat refugees expelled from the region.

He was on heightened alert since late last week after a bomb threat, reportedly from an Islamic group.

The current state of alert is "black", the second-highest of four Nato stages. It obliges all soldiers not to travel alone and to wear flak jackets and helmets all the time. Small and isolated detachments of I-For patrolling Serb territory were withdrawn to base.

UN civilian policemen and political officers in the Republika Srpska, the Serb-held half of Bosnia, also left their posts for the protection of I-For bases.

The UN refugee agency, UNHCR, said it would continue to work normally in Republika Srpska. The International Red Cross (ICRC) said it was also continuing to work as normal, but would keep the situation under review.



An American engineer repairs a road damaged during three years of fighting near Tuzla. Under Operation Fear Naught, all peacekeepers must wear helmets and flak jackets and not travel alone

TWA inquiry rules out bomb in hold theory

Ian Katz in New York

CASH investigators have all but ruled out the possibility that a bomb in the forward cargo hold of TWA Flight 800 caused the explosion that brought down the Boeing 747 last month, killing all 230 on board.

The investigators, who had considered the hold the most likely site for a bomb, abandoned the theory after searches recovered the last of the four cargo containers, none of which showed blast damage.

They are now looking at the possibility that a bomb was concealed in a catering trolley or carry-on baggage at the front of the aircraft. Meanwhile FBI agents have questioned Hussein Mikdad, a Hizbullah bomber held by Israel who lost his legs and an arm and was blinded when a device he was assembling exploded in a Jerusalem hotel room.

The Israeli authorities say Mr Mikdad was recruited and trained by Iran and planned to blow up an airliner leaving Israel. He is believed to have smuggled the high-powered plastic explosive RDX and other bomb parts through Tel Aviv airport after he arrived on a flight from Zurich on April 4.

He is in a critical condition in hospital.

The discovery of the fourth luggage container on Saturday has increased the frustration of the investigators, who have now recovered about half the wreckage but have yet to find conclusive evidence of what caused the crash on July 17.

The front cargo hold was considered the most likely location of a bomb because it contained all the passenger luggage. An initial blast at the front of the plane is believed to have "decapitated" the jet before the rest of it exploded into a fireball.

But Jim Kallstrom, who is leading the investigation, said the aluminium containers were "basically unremarkable". Attention appears to have turned to the area near the front of the right wing. According to a source close to the investigation, wreckage from that part shows evidence of "high-energy bulging and bending". That would be consistent with a bomb placed in an overhead luggage compartment or catering trolley nearby.

But as hard evidence of a bomb continues to elude them, the investigators are taking more seriously the possibility that the disaster was caused by a mechanical failure.

One theory is that there could have been an explosion in the centre wing fuel tank, a space between the wings containing fuel vapour.

EU claims Olympic victory, statistically speaking

Stephen Bates in Brussels

HERETO unsuspected competitor has suddenly breathed the tape and claimed Olympic victory. The European Union declared yesterday that it won at Atlanta.

Under the headline "EU Up Front" - guaranteed to make a Tory Euro-sceptic choke on his breakfast - the Euro-statisticians offered their gloss on a competition over which the European flag never flew and at which its anthem was never played.

Brussels only barely managed to keep a straight face as it issued the details from a department usually more concerned with inflation indexes and cereal production figures. Aided by 65 medals from Germany, France's 37, Italy's

35, even Britain's 15, though not Luxembourg's zero, the bureaucrats suggested a whole new reason for European union.

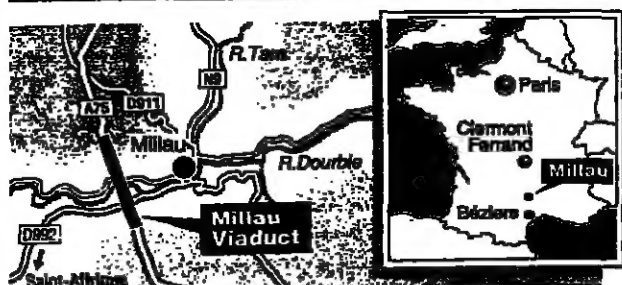
Europe's 229 medals easily exceeded the United States' 101 or the Russian Federation's 63. But the statisticians went further.

Per head of population, apparently, the EU is also up there with the best: the tally is the equivalent of 6.16 medals per 10 million of population, much better than Russia's 4.27, the USA's 3.94 and China's 0.41. Canada went rather better at 7.43 and Australia walked home first with 22.78.

The message from Brussels appeared clear: if John Major wants sporting success, he should sign up immediately for further European union.

Foster's bridge soars into trouble

Sur le pont



A British design has drawn the wrath of French greens and architects, writes Paul Webster

PLANS for a huge motorway viaduct across the Tarn river valley in south-west France have angered environmentalists and upset French bridge-builders, who have criticised the appointment of a British architect, Sir Norman Foster.

The spectacular bridge, as long as the Champs Elysees, will link the Causee Rouge plateau near Millau to a legendary environmental battlefield, the Larzac plateau, and enable the 213-mile Clermont-Ferrand to Béziers motorway to be completed in 2001. About 25 miles of toll road remain to be built.

Conservationists who 20 years ago won an epic 10-year campaign to save the bleak Larzac plateau from becoming a military proving ground believe the mile-and-a-half viaduct, with pylons higher than the Eiffel Tower, will disfigure one of the most beautiful sites in the country.

"The motorway could have been resited to the west, which would have avoided the need for a such a big bridge and would have added only five kilometres to the journey," said

Louis Valès of the group of green associations opposing the A75 motorway. "It is absurd to build such an enormous structure over the Tarn valley, particularly as the Larzac plateau will be seriously damaged by the excavation work for the supporting pillars."

Environmentalists plan to try to delay the work. But few local councillors have joined the opposition. The bridge will improve access to one of the quietest corners of rural France, which suffers from population drift and lack of investment.

Without strong political support there seems to be little chance of stopping the project. An often violent campaign has not delayed the Somport road tunnel through the Pyrenees and an expressway from Pau that threatens unique wildlife.

French officials have ruled out a rethink after holding an open competition in which four French architects competed against Sir Norman, designer of Stansted airport. His cable-stayed suspension bridge with seven supporting pylons was considered the most likely to resist the strong winds along the valley. It was also the cheapest at an estimated £170 million.

But the defeated bidders doubt both the plan's aesthetics and Sir Norman's estimates. Rival estimates have put the final price as high as £400 million.

News in brief

Peasants shot in Colombia

Gunmen killed seven peasants in Narino province, Colombia - a region rocked by protests against the government's chemical spraying of illicit drug crops - the authorities said on Sunday.

Meanwhile peasants in neighbouring Putumayo province reached a preliminary accord to end their 18-day protest. - Reuters.

Blockade ends

The Sri Lankan army said yesterday it had stopped shell-

ing the Tamil rebel-held northern town of Kilinochchi, and aid workers said the army was loading food trucks for civilians after a three-week blockade. - Reuters.

Somali clashes

At least 14 people were killed in battles for the Somali town of Balad between forces loyal to Ali Mahdi Mohamed and Hussein Aided - son of the late Mohammed Farah Aided - hospital officials said yesterday. - Reuters.

No to foreign media

The Indian government has ruled out the entry of foreign

print media into India and foreign television networks broadcasting from Indian soil. - Reuters.

Test ban threat

Iran threatened yesterday to block adoption of a comprehensive nuclear test ban, lining up with India in opposing the draft text. - Reuters.

Kashmir ousting

The president of Pakistan-ruled Kashmir, Sardar Sikandar Hayat, was ousted yesterday in a parliamentary vote of no-confidence called by the governing Pakistan People's Party. - Reuters.

Child burned

An Italian was arrested at the weekend after pouring alcohol on his son's arms and setting them alight to punish him for stealing a wallet, a child defence agency said yesterday. - Reuters.

Lost at sea

The Norwegian Coast Guard and the Royal Air Force searched yesterday for two Norwegians who were trying to row across the North Sea. They have not been heard from since Wednesday, when they set off from the Shetland Islands. - AP.

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Stop the freak show

Fertility issues deserve an informed debate

THE UNFOLDING saga of Mandy Allwood reflects to no one's advantage. First, we have the unedifying spectacle of a woman hawking the contents of her womb in Max Clifford's "marketplace." Her reasoning includes ludicrous statements such as wanting "nature to take its course" (after injections of powerful fertility drugs) as she rejects medical advice that unless she reduces the number of foetuses, she runs a high risk of losing all of them and her own life. Remember, she already has one five-year-old child who needs his mother. This is an absurd and irresponsible distortion of a woman's right to choose.

The second absurdity is that of the pressure group, Life, supporting Ms Allwood because their absolutist respect for the sacredness of human life is such that they are prepared to run the risk of eight dead foetuses and a dead mother. Thirdly, add to this circus the ghoulish News of the World and Max Clifford with their "sliding scale" fee to Ms Allwood for the number of babies she manages to produce. A plague on all their houses.

What is serious is that for the second time in two weeks the enormously complex and difficult questions surrounding fertility treatment have been reduced to the level of a freak show. Last week, Professor Nicolaides, the head of foetal medicine at King's College, London, and the consultant in the Allwood case pleaded in the Guardian for an intelligent, informed, dispassionate debate. He said he and his colleagues were "daily tortured" by the ethical dilemmas which advances in fertility technology were throwing up. He wants society to participate and contribute as to how these dilemmas should be resolved. What he gets instead is a emotive accusations of doctors "playing God". (If that means they have decisions over life and death, that is exactly the judgment we expect of

doctors in an enormous variety of medical circumstances.)

The medical details with which we have been provided in Ms Allwood's case raise important questions. Why did a woman who has had a child, an abortion and a miscarriage in six years need powerful fertility drugs? Should a woman be given such drugs without the involvement of her partner? Infertility pressure groups rightly point out that the impression of "off-the-shelf" fertility treatment is misleading. Thousands of couples are disappointed every year because of restrictions on funding, availability and questions of suitability. As the rate of infertility rises one in six couples now need medical treatment to have a child — the real issue is how to increase the availability of fertility treatment.

But the Allwood case appears to raise one area of genuine concern. Strict guidelines on counselling, and investigation into the circumstances of the future parents is part of standard procedure of *in-vitro* fertilisation (IVF) clinics which are tightly regulated by the Human Fertilisation and Embryology Authority (HFEA). So it should be with all fertility drugs. Even clomiphene, which can be routinely prescribed by a GP, can be powerful enough to produce triplets or quads. The Royal College of Obstetricians and Gynaecologists have guidelines for the use of fertility drugs including metformin, which can only be prescribed in specialist hospital units. They emphasise the importance of the welfare of any future child and any existing children, and for the need for couples to be counselled as to the risks of multiple pregnancies. There are still too many multiple births, and many of them are attributed to fertility drugs. The question is: how closely are these guidelines being followed? And has Mandy Allwood driven a coach and horses through them?

A case for marriage guidance

Mr Dole has his work cut out keeping his new mate in check

WHEN A CANDIDATE for the US presidential election has lagged as far behind as Bob Dole, he has to resort to desperate measures — like being honest. Asked what impelled him to make the 11th-hour choice of Jack Kemp as his running mate, he replied with one word: "Winning!" It is a sign of Mr Dole's troubles that the choice of a potential vice-president — a position traditionally not worth that famous bucket of warm spit — has acquired such importance in the run-up to this week's convention.

At the least, Mr Kemp has given the US media something to tug and tease into shape. He is nothing if not a communicator, though not of the most disciplined kind, and he is never short of a word, though sometimes too long on them. There could be a real problem that he may show up Mr Dole's own rhetorical deficiencies and lack of voter appeal. It may also be hard to avoid the exposure of discrepancies on policy, however firmly Mr Dole has already lectured him on the need to remember that he is only No 2. Yet if he succeeds, he should go further than his boss in fulfilling the promise to take the Republican campaign "to every community and every neighbourhood."

Choosing a running mate who speaks on another wavelength is no novelty; Mr Dole's motive for doing so is transparent too. It is not so much that the two candidates differ on a range of issues where Mr Kemp takes a somewhat (although not always consistently)

more liberal view. It is that the more conservative Mr Dole finds himself running a campaign which, to potential voters, looks even further to the right by many degrees. Mr Dole insists he has not had time to read the convention platform, but it is still there with its call for a constitutional amendment banning abortion and its tough language on immigration. It is more than a shade humiliating to have to welcome the offer of a truce from Pat Buchanan. Attempts to patch in a few moderate speakers to the convention are offset by the manner in which two influential state governors have been warned off speaking in favour of abortion. Much hangs here on the success of last night's speech by Colin Powell but he is not, though Mr Dole might wish he were, the vice-presidential candidate. Mr Kemp is less of a moderate than he will now be portrayed; he has been described as an arch-conservative who makes conservatives uneasy. But he does call for the empowerment of the poor (through the marketplace), does not slam the unions or denounce affirmative action, and is opposed to cutting down government services for immigrants. In style as well as policy, he can also speak — unlike Mr Dole — to, rather than through, people.

Mr Dole has called for an Olympic campaign and says he is going for gold. The polls can now be expected to show some improvement in the warm glow of a convention "success." Mr Kemp may win a few medals, but will it be enough?

New danger: gutter politics

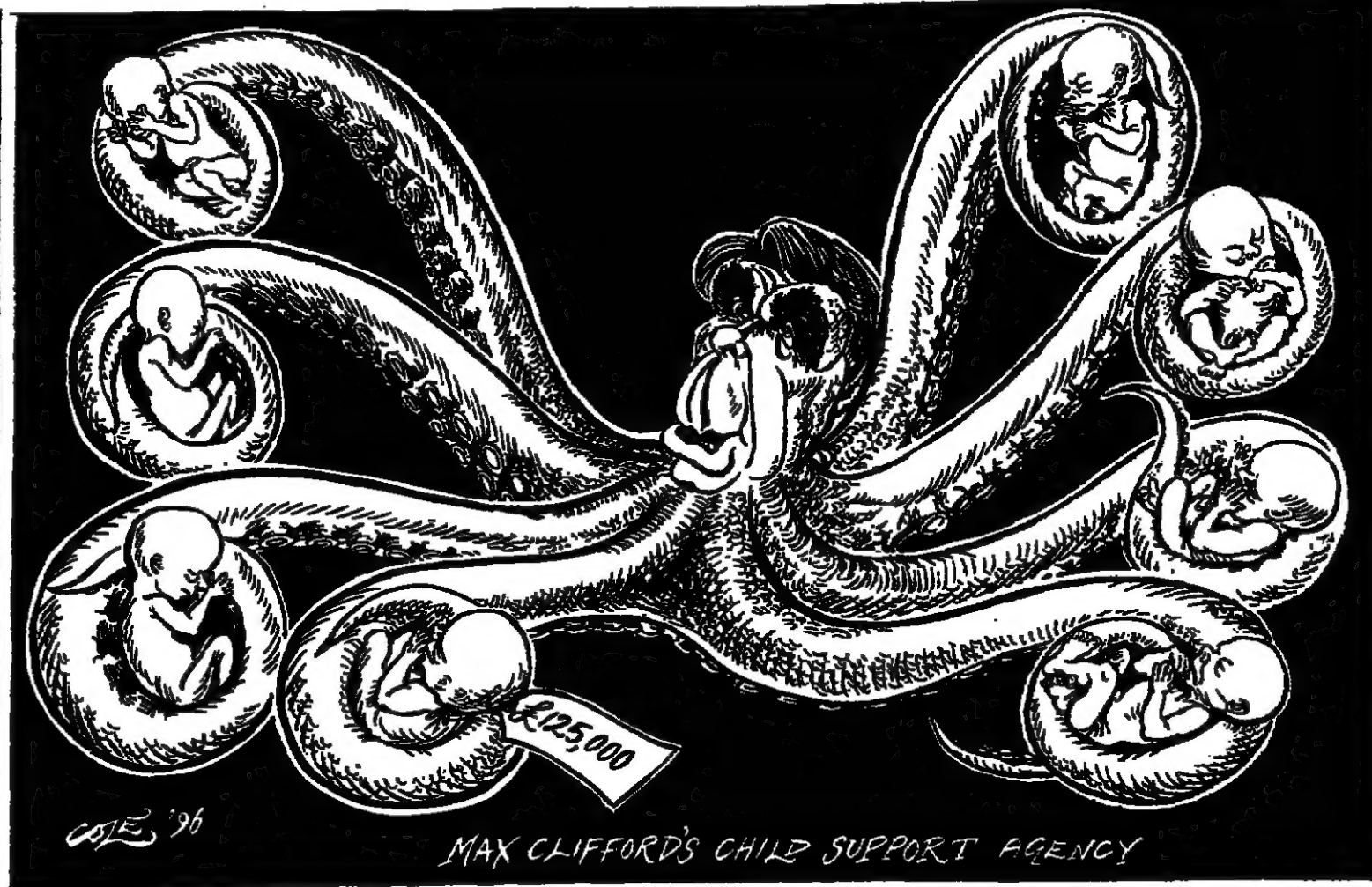
The Tory's latest attack on Tony Blair marks a low point

WITH their new poster featuring Tony Blair with wild demonic eyes, the Conservatives have marked a low-point in British electioneering. There has never been a more vacuous, crude or desperate campaign — and political campaigning has a pretty squalid history. Personal attacks on Neil Kinnock were bad enough, and the reflections of a former Tory director of research on how well the "race card" played in the 1992 election outraged many. Of course, the Labour Party is not entirely blameless, but this ridiculous campaign — Tony Blair as the devil with conjunctivitis — sets a new, low benchmark.

Responsibility must rest with Brian Mawhinney. Up until now his record as party chairman has been characterised by a stream of gaffes, from the amusing to the distinctly unpleasant. This time he has gone even beyond his previous standards. Dr Mawhinney reacts to criticism of the campaign by claiming that

this is not an attempt to demonise Mr Blair. If that is not the motive, then we can only conclude it is the product of wild panic. Michael Portillo's attempt to link the campaign to a Fabian Society pamphlet (not a Labour Party policy document) on the royal family only heightens the sense of desperation. Labour must actually be rather pleased; the Tories have succeeded in distracting attention from Clare Short's hurt feelings and in reinforcing the shabby air that surrounds their own party.

In the wake of John Smith's death, all the party leaders spoke of the need for more mature politics. John Major should insist that Central Office terminate this ugly — and ludicrous — attack on the Labour leader, in his own interests if nothing else. If he fails to do so the real "new danger" is that, long before the election, a ratchet effect will lever politics right down into the gutter.



Letters to the Editor

Eight ideas on those embryos

IF WE needed further proof that our cleverness has so far outstripped our wisdom as to verge on lunacy, we have it in Mandy Allwood's attempts to capitalise on her bizarre situation by seeking a £1 million sponsorship deal (Pury at 9-baby birth bonus, August 12).

The fact that medicine has "advanced" to a point where this could happen, without envisaging the consequences and without any public outcry, the fact that it can be reported quite matter-of-factly without any apparent disquiet, shows how imperceptibly we are sliding towards barbarity.

In a world claiming to be even half-civilised, an injunction would restrain this indefensible exploitation of a freakish and potentially tragic situation, which is akin to exhibiting a two-headed man in a cage for a circus audience to gawp at. But, of course, this is just the beginning. If there's money to be made, people will be queuing to get in on the act. What price a black market in frozen embryos? Eileen Noakes, Lower Warren Road, Kingsbridge, Devon TQ7.

IN supporting Mandy Allwood's decision to risk her own life along with those of all her embryos, rather than consent to a selective abortion, the so-called "pro-life" lobby exposes the inhuman and irrational fundamentalism of its position.

For a truly corrupt estimation of the meaning and value of life, children and parenthood, we need look no further

than the phenomenon of infertility treatment as a commercial transaction, and parents who, disregarding medical advice, attempt cynically to exploit a doomed multiple pregnancy as a meal ticket.

If infertility treatments in their current state of imperfection are to be permitted at all — a question which recent events should re-open — they should be administered for the benefit of those who could otherwise never become parents at all, and not to abet serial parenting by people who already have children by other partners.

Root Cartwright, Chairman, British Organisation of Non-Parents, BM Box 5866, London WC1N 3XX.

WHILE the Government pushes the free-market ethos in every sphere (except Parliament), its MPs rush to condemn Mandy Allwood for practising what they preach in setting up her own nice little earner. Are they unable to comprehend cause and effect? David Lewin, Clive Road, Cowley, Oxford OX4.

WHEN I refused an offered selective termination for my IVF triplets, I naively approached social services for practical help (none was available). I now realise I should have approached either pro-life groups or the press for a much-needed financial alternative. Kim Willoughby, Weybridge Close, Warrington, Cheshire.

TAKE exception to the view of Jack Scarisbrick of Life (interview, August 10) as I recover from my abortion which was carried out last Friday. My foetus was 13 weeks old and suffered from a fatal condition known as Turner's syndrome. She would have been unable to live outside the womb due to a cystic hygroma and other severe abnormalities. She would also have been unable to reach full term.

To expect a woman to wait for her baby to die when there is no possibility of her living is simply inhumane. I challenge Jack Scarisbrick to justify my not having an abortion. Name and address supplied.



Uncivil service

LORD Mackay of Ardsheleklinch suggests (Letters, August 6) that the only deciding factor on decisions of whether or not to privatise civil-service functions or assets is "whether that transfer increases value for money for the taxpayer". How he can seriously suggest this only days after the Efficiency Unit's review of the Competing For Quality (market-testing) programme was made public is beyond comprehension.

This report, held back for almost a year and discreetly pushed under the door of Parliament after MPs had gone home for the summer recess, proves that the Government's "value-for-money" mantra is no more than a fig leaf to hide an ill-conceived dogma that privatisation should be pursued regardless of cost to the tax-paying public. Among the findings:

• Taxpayers are subsidising a £90 million bill each year for "process costs" such as external consultancy fees and contract management.

• CFPQ reviews won by civil servants generated greater efficiency and more savings than those won by private contractors (23 per cent to 16 per cent).

• Services carried out by private contractors are invariably subject to "significant" costs "associated with unhelpful bureaucratic interface between users and suppliers".

• CFPQ reviews of services with a value under £500,000 (almost half of all market-testing/contracting-out projects) should never have been carried out because the cost of tendering was either equal to, or exceeded, any savings anticipated by the Government.

In the light of this report, I can see no evidence to support Lord Mackay's value-for-money argument. Eamonn Rasmussen, General Secretary, The Civil and Public Services Association, 160 Falcon Road, London SW11 2LN.

New words, old music

THERE is an essential contradiction in New Labour's position on the monarchy, and the other laudable ethos proposed by the Fabian Society for an overhaul of our democracy (Don't save the Queen, Blair urged, August 12). New Labour wants to sound radical to its activists, while conservative, with a small "c", to middle England.

This leads to policies like a partial reform of the House of Lords, which falls somewhat short of an elected second chamber, and would instead rest over much power of patronage in the hands of a prime minister.

New Labour ought to steal some of the Conservatives' other clothes and propose the privatisation of the monarchy. Buckingham Palace and Windsor Castle could make

excellent five-star hotels with the exception of the private quarters for the royal family. The Government could hold a golden jubilee to prevent foreign ownership, and a special provision could be made to prevent death duties being a burden on the succession.

This would be the most popular privatisation ever undertaken. (Cllr Kevin Peters, 56 Gains Road, Southsea, Portsmouth, Hants PO4 0PL.

THE major controversy of the Fabian Society's proposals is not the future of the royal family but the threat of Andrew Lloyd Webber composing the national anthem. Andrew Procter, 20 Valence Street, London SW17 8PT.

Hot on water

WHAT business is the speed limit on Windermere of the Secretary of State for the Environment (Letters, August 12)? Why can't this be decided by the relevant local body? This episode shows just how centralist we are in this country.

Robin Wendt, Secretary, Association of County Councils, 88 Eaton Square, London SW1W 9BH.

MANY walkers visit the upland fells of the Lake District. No doubt John Gummer thinks they come to enjoy the frequent deafening by low-flying military aircraft. Peter Durrans, 25 Swain Road, Thornton Heath, Surrey CR7 7AP.

This is (still) London calling

AS A British Project Trust volunteer taking a year out between school and university in Namibia, I have found my short-wave radio to have been an invaluable investment, and find myself always tuning to the BBC World Service. What distresses me, therefore, are the reports I hear — though rarely through the BBC itself — of the "nationalisation" of the World Service.

I cannot speak of the motives or detailed plans, but I definitely can report on the receiving end. Here in southern Africa, the World Service is listened to, and trusted, as the most sacrosanct of news providers. It is the best advertising Britain has got, reaching millions and serving whole strata of the population. If this were to be scaled down, to lose its local insight, it wouldn't be a few ex-pats who would suffer, it would truly be the world.

Toby Hart, The Buchter News, Linderitz Maritime Centre, PO Box 470, Linderitz, Namibia.

A Country Diary

DARTMOOR: A painting week afforded insights into more than line, tone, colour and brushwork. I was lost in the lanes that plunge confusingly between high banks around South Tawton and South Zeal. My early morning walk had already overrun breakfast time when a shiny BMW accelerated past me as I flagged it down. I knocked apologetically on a cottage door to ask the way. The man of the house put his shirt on, started up the car, and drove me home. On the bleaker heights, granite spines like the Beistone ridges are silhouetted against the sky. There are ancient stone-circles like Scorhill (pronounced Scorell) that hint at the time when this wilderness — one of the earliest uplands to have been cleared of trees by man to provide grazing — was populous and busy. There are scattered groups of ponies and straggling sheep, a few marbled hollows, and glistening traces here and there of the beginnings of the five rivers — Tavy, Taw, Teign, Dart and Plym — that rise close together and radiate out-

The jury is out on Lord Woolf

I AM writing following Lord Woolf's plan to improve civil justice (Civil law "revolution" plans, July 27). I have practised as a solicitor in Manchester for many years. The administration of Manchester County Court is currently so overstretched that in my last two cases before the court the administrative staff have been unable to carry out the simple task of ensuring that all the case papers were in front of the judge hearing the case. In each case, delay and expense was caused to all parties.

If a court currently cannot carry out a simple filing task properly, it is frankly ludicrous to suggest, as Lord Woolf does, that such courts without extra resources can transform into efficient, quick case managers of civil justice.

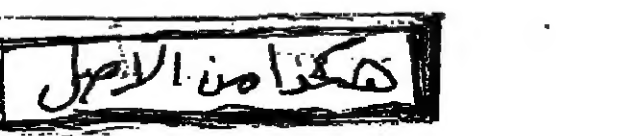
D S Johnston, 10 Parsonage Road, Manchester M20 4PQ.

YOU highlight the problems discovered by the National Audit Office in the administration of legal aid (Millions in legal aid paid in error, August 3). The NAO recommended that operational guidance be improved and that training provision be reviewed. In contrast to these recommendations, the Government currently proposes to put all training in magistrates' courts at risk by removing the protection now afforded to training budgets.

Senior managers have already identified this as an opportunity to plunder training budgets to mitigate the effects of overall cuts in court's budgets. Equally, the longer-term proposals to make solicitors responsible for decisions on the granting of legal aid will introduce a financial interest which does not currently exist, and cause delay and confusion in the courts.

Legal-aid administration must remain in the magistrates' courts if the interests of justice are to be served. The real problems to be resolved are those of staffing levels and training which have been undermined by cash-limited budgets. Robert Eagleson, General Secretary, Association of Magisterial Officers, 231 Vauxhall Bridge Road, London SW1V 1EG.

Please include a full postal address and a telephone number. We may edit letters; shorter ones are more likely to appear. We regret we cannot acknowledge those not used.



Diary
Matthew Norman

A GREAT philanthropist strides forward to inject life into Bolmondely Relief. Having passed our plea for help to his master, John Fraser, MA (Oxon), MPhil, faces a reply. "Mr Winner was saddened to hear of the plight of Peter and Virginia Bottomley," writes Mr Fraser, adding that Michael has met them before. "Naturally he would wish to spring to the support of his friends, and he is sending you, by courier, a number of shirts which he is sadly too fat to wear any more... You will note they are from very famous makers. They are just arrived; one, in blue and white stripes, bears the name Francesco of London; the other, a grey and cream affair, is from Rex of the Beverley Hills in New York. Passing aside a note suggesting they are "far too good for an MP" and that I should wear them myself — a notion worth bearing in mind for the fancy-dress season ahead — and ignoring the fact that we requested a pair of Michael's jumbo knickers (a makeshift tent for the Bolmondely Relief of Wight camping trip) we are extremely grateful. Would that others were as generous as Michael, the Lord Shaftesbury of our age.

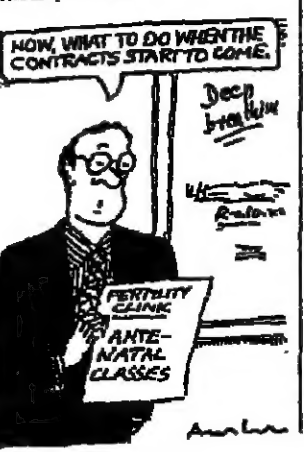
THE recent star of Channel 4's If I Were Prime Minister, the alternative premier show, Mad Francis Fraser, has been censured. "They did draw the line at a couple of things, yes," admits the retired gangster. "I wanted Charlie Richardson as Chancellor and Reggie Kray as Home Secretary." But why? "Well," says Frank, "we'd have all got a few quid with Charlie as Chancellor. I can tell you. None of us would have been skint. And Reggie would've been a terrific Home Secretary. The first thing he'd have done is release himself... and you can't blame him for that, can you?"

IN the Daily Mail, some and rational Paul Johnson has a brainwave. In another carefully considered piece, Paul says that it is time to colonise outer space as a home for earthling immigrants. This is inevitable, he says, and will come sooner than you may think. "I, alas, will not live to see it," says Mr Tony Blair's spiritual guide, "but my children may and my grandchildren certainly will." Anyone tempted to dismiss this as the rantings of the world's least gifted prophet is reminded that, in 1968, it was Paul who predicted that Britain would avoid a sexual revolution.

WITH the strike suspended, what better time to garner sympathy for London's Tube drivers? Working conditions have so deteriorated, they claim, that there is not time for a pee when turning trains around. "You pull the front of the train into the tunnel and pee out of the front," says one driver, modestly. "It ain't too clever, this job." For drivers who previously relied on catheters or will power but are inspired by this news, the live rail — that's the bigger one — is best avoided.

EVER the gent, Terry Major-Ball rings in on Friday at Simpson's-in-the-Strand (smoked-salmon salad, roast lamb and fresh strawberries for Terry). "It was very enjoyable," says Terry, warmly, "and I met a couple of nice people on the way home." But who were they? "This chap selling posters by Charing Cross recognised me, and said he was a loyal supporter of John's. Then, when I was on the shoulder and said his friend had bet that I was the Prime Minister's brother," Terry has been clearing his desk. "I've been doing newspaper work," he explains. "Isn't it amazing the amount you accumulate?" Indeed it is, and upon this observant note, we say farewell.

THOSE contemplating a life of crime in Somerset — scrumping apples or whatever — are advised to avoid Yeovil. Magistrates there have sent a warrant to Sussex cops, reports Police magazine, ordering them to arrest a man for failing to pay a fine for non-return of his library book.



The risk of sounding paranoid

Commentary
Geoff Mulgan

NOT long ago a businessman in the computer industry coined a phrase that could stand as a maxim for the late 1990s. "Only the paranoid survive," he warned, meaning that only the most anxious businesses would escape being crushed or swallowed by their competitors. It's a comment that fits well with this summer's mood of anxiety and risk. At home, the Tories have all but given up on feeling good, gunning instead for the paranoid stridency of "new Labour, new danger".

Across Europe, the press is awash with the dangers of getting skin cancer from sunbathing, dying from a liking for *boeuf bourguignon* or lamb kebabs, or being blown up by crazed militiamen in America. Across the world, cinema audiences are being gripped by the sight of aliens turning cities to dust.

A good decade after they first took the issue on, academic sociologists are now finding an eager audience for their claim that ours is an era beset by risk — whether it comes from BSE or Aids, downsizing corporations or dodgy nuclear-power stations in Bulgaria.

It matters a lot whether they are right. And it matters just as much whether or not anything can be done about it. Yet the first thing that strikes you about the current vogue for risk is that it runs so starkly against the facts. The simplest way to gauge the riskiness of life is to see how easily people die. By this measure, the facts are clear: in most western societies longevity is still rising, and indeed, far from levelling off, it is now increasing fastest in the countries where it is already highest.

This shouldn't be all that surprising. The objective risks faced by the typical British citizen are not great by any historical standard. There is no threat of imminent invasion or civil war. Despite the attention paid by the media to individual murders, the rate remains minimal. Traffic accidents are low and falling. In most areas of life, scientific knowledge is still far more likely to prevent risks than to create them.

This doesn't mean that people aren't facing genuine, and new, insecurities. But it does suggest that the current obsession with risk may have less to do with an objective, long-term rise in danger, and more to do with the fact that we compare the present with that fairly brief period between around 1950 and 1970 when jobs were secure, scientists were trustworthy and beef was beef.

Today we assume that life should be controllable and predictable. We assume that where there's a risk, there should also be an insurance policy to protect us from it. Today, you can insure your mortgage against unemployment, your income against debilitating disease, and, if you're a celebrity, you can insure your hands or your face against a disfiguring accident. I'm sure that if you were so inclined, you could insure yourself against a Labour government.

No wonder, perhaps, that consumer spending on insurance in all its forms has roughly doubled since the end of the 1980s, and that forecasters expect it to rise another 50 per cent by the end of the decade. No wonder, too, that some politicians, and the policy wonks at the Treasury, see more insurance as the answer to the fact that most people aren't saving anything like enough for retirements which may now account for as much as a third of their

disability pension — a partial president who moves in and out of the decision-making process in an unpredictable fashion, and who may for that reason use or be used by different political power centres in Moscow at different times.

Even if the president were a jogging, tennis-playing, musical-eating teetotaler half his age, the question of Russia's chain of command, where the buck stops, the question of responsibility, would remain. Even if it were somehow known that Mr Yeltsin was incapacitated, and that a second figure — prime minister Victor Chernomyrdin, for example — was actually running the country, it would not solve this question. For today's Kremlin intrigues are not simply a struggle for power: they are a struggle to define what form power in Russia should take.

IT is always misleading to anthropomorphise countries — the US is seeking this, Britain wants that — but it is particularly misleading in Russia's case. Even talking about "the Russian government" suggests a degree of coordination which does not exist. The presidential administration and the actual government, the cabinet of ministers, are separate entities. Even though he has the decisive say in appointing them, the Russian president has no direct say in the day-to-day running of the government.

Last week's Chechen rebel attack on Grozny may have been a turning point. The contrast between the violent reality of hand-to-hand fighting in the streets of Grozny, with young Russian soldiers once again being cut to ribbons by nimble rebel veterans, and the languid unconcern of the Moscow authorities, was even more so. Mr Yeltsin was tired, unwell and preoccupied with preparations for his inauguration. Defence minister Igor Rodionov and interior minister Anatoly Kulikov, whose troops were being slaughtered, surrounded, taken prisoner and in some cases running out of ammunition, took no particular interest in events in Grozny until the end of the week.

Doku Zavgayev — nicknamed "the air traffic controller" because it is unsafe for him to travel anywhere in Chechnya outside Grozny airport — commented, insanely, that "apart from Grozny, the situation in Chechnya is perfectly quiet". While Movladi Udugov, the rebel "information minister", was pouring out a gory blow-by-blow account of rebel triumphs in Grozny by satellite telephone from the Chechen countryside, Moscow journalists could get no information out of the bloated press apparatuses of any of the security ministries. When Alexander Lebed, Mr Yeltsin's new security overlord, was appointed the president's representative for Chechnya at the weekend, he discovered that the man who was supposed to be his deputy was on holiday in Cyprus.

It would be almost reassuring to blame the crisis of responsibility in Moscow — and Chechnya is only the most visible part of the problem — on the president's state of health. He is clearly sick. His metabolism does not work at full speed. The man we saw taking the inaugural oath on Friday was not the decisive, charismatic opportunist of 1991, or the bustling deep-pocketed entertainer of the spring presidential campaign.

Yet the walking corpse theory does not stand up, either. Mr Yeltsin has been written off too many times before, only to come back speechifying and policymaking. What we have is something a lot less clear-cut than a

guardsman. The British government wants to shunt the burdens of risk — for instance, sick pay — on to employers while employers want to push it out to their employees, so that individuals bear the cost of recessions or obsolete skills. Both want to off-load as much as they can on to the citizen. All across the world, a kind of "pass the parcel" is underway, where it is usually the least powerful who end up shouldering the most risk.

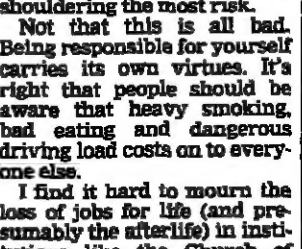
Not that this is all bad. Being responsible for yourself carries its own virtues. It's right that people should be aware that heavy smoking, bad eating and dangerous driving load costs on to everyone else.

I find it hard to mourn the loss of jobs for life (and presumably the afterlife) in itself, where the Church of England and universities, it may be good for us to come to terms with the fact that life is, by its nature, unpredictable and even dangerous.

But things are now out of hand, where it is usually the least powerful who end up shouldering the most risk. Keeping your mind focused on the dark things in life meant you were better prepared when a bear lunged at you. But permanent paranoia isn't a good recipe for happiness. It's not what anyone would willingly choose. And that's why I suspect that before long, politics will return to the task not just of "equipping people for change", but also of providing a little bit of protection. It matters little if objectively our lives are safer than ever, especially when we can show us a credible way to stop feeling paranoid, then higher taxes and premiums will be a small price to pay.

Hugo Young is away

Deadly games on the green line



Leslie Plommer

THE MARCHING season in Cyprus is any time, really — any time a sufficient number of Greek Cypriots or the dim and hardliners who manipulate local sentiment decide things have got a bit too peaceful. For marching is, predominantly, the sport of the southern majority rather than the island's Turkish north, and the men in the shadows will be quietly pleased, even as they weep crocodile tears, that a death and many injuries have resulted from their latest dangerous game this week. The arch-manipulators are rarely to be found on the frontlines themselves at the marches; they encourage, of course. But they like to have a martyr, especially when Washington has been making cheerful election-year noises about its current initiative to end the long partition.

It all rings a curiously Irish bell, somehow, not least in the fact that there are now too many political and business mafiosi on both sides of the line in Cyprus — a big people, for whom little hotbeds are mere cannon-fodder — with too big a stake in protecting their drug rackets and money laundering and cigarette smuggling and property speculation and copyright piracy to risk the re-ordering of things that reunification would bring.

So today and for weeks to come the Greek-Cypriot media will be screaming their outrage at the brutality of those Turkish Cypriots who on Sunday bludgeoned to death a young Greek protester. He had joined hundreds of others on foot and on motorbikes in breaching the United Nations buffer zone that separates south from north.

For the killers of Tassos Isaac, there is no excuse. Television footage of the murder is said to exist. Other pictures broadcast on Sunday showed similar scenes in which young men with staves primitively and viciously beat other young men lying curled on the ground. One felt certain that had the assailants possessed Rwandan machetes, they would have used them. There is just one way for Turkish Cyprus to do penance: by sentencing those who committed the murder to long prison terms. I have not the slightest expectation this will happen.

Nor do I believe that those to blame on the Greek side, for breaking into a buffer zone patrolled by UN peacekeepers at the invitation of the Greek-Cypriot government, will ever



Leslie Plommer

he brought to book in any serious way. But let's look a little more closely at who is "to blame" here. What about, for a start, those many teachers on both sides who stuff distortion into young minds? Clerics who inculcate hatred. Parents and grandparents who serve rage at the dinner-table. All this happens, day in, day out.

Ah, and then there are the media. Greek-Cypriot television, for instance, the selfsame organisation that will be filming and joining in the loud lamentations at Tassos Isaac's funeral today, spent Sunday march-day running live scenes from the buffer-zone demonstrations. Between-limes, it filled any gaps with helpful old footage of previous violent demonstrations. The 1974 invasion of northern Cyprus by the Turkish army, and even Cypriot attacks on the British in pre-1960 colonial days. Not only was Greek Cyprus riveted and whipped up, but the live reports enabled organisers using mobile phones to deploy more demonstrators to trouble spots.

I remember a conversation with an educated and infuriated woman on her extensively dressed way into an evening banquet at the Nicosia Hilton. This was after one of the Greek-Cypriot women's "peace marches" on the buffer zone — marches whose organisers well knew held the potential for death, just as the organisers of this week's protests knew. Her 13-year-old daughter, she raged, had been struck by Turkish soldiers at one of the flashpoints.

I was at that particular village and I too had a young daughter. It was, as I knew it would be, a volatile scene. To have taken a child there would have been an act of lunacy. What can the state of mind of such a mother be?

THIS is not, emphatically, to let leaders of the Turkish-Cypriot minority off the hook over the latest outrage. They occupy a moral low ground only marginally above that of those Greeks who acted first in promoting the weekend's protests. Once it became clear some days beforehand that the bitter demonstrations were taking shape, the Turkish side issued inflammatory warnings — always a touchpaper for trouble, amounting in the local context to a dare. Then they mustered their own counter-demonstrators, some of whom went on to beat a man to death.

Yet if anyone can afford to be mature about the division of Cyprus, it is the men in the north. Protected by more than 30,000 mainland Turkish troops, they can be assured that no amount of Greek marches will topple their little self-styled republic. But, as with the Greek hardliners, it suits their purposes to fan the fire. Both sides of Cyprus conspired at Tassos Isaac's death. Hell will freeze over before either side admits its guilt.



Kremlin in chaos

What with power-struggles paralyzing Moscow, and Yeltsin semi-detached, it's not surprising that rebels and soldiers alike are still being slaughtered in Chechnya, argues James Meek

THOSE who ask why Russia has not resolved the Chechen crisis are asking, if not the wrong question, then certainly the most important one. Why has Britain not resolved the Ulster crisis, Spain the Basque crisis, the UN the division of Cyprus? What marks Chechnya out is not the difficulty of finding a solution to an ethnic-territorial-religious dispute which has simmered on and off for more than a century, but the careless, haphazard, deadly way the Russian government has managed the conflict in the meantime, accompanied by a fantastic combination of brutality and utter lack of perception and collective responsibility for a tragic sequence of bloody blunders.

Ever since the collapse of the Soviet Union, Moscow's approach to Chechnya has epitomised the systemic self-deceit of an insecure regime, a self-deceit bizarrely exposed

the media. To lie to your own people in the hope of not being found out is wrong, but at least understandable. To lie in the almost certain knowledge of being exposed as a liar bespeaks both a tattered contempt for the real democratic power of your electorate and a terrible disarray in your system of governance.

Last week's Chechen rebel attack on Grozny may have been a turning point. The contrast between the violent reality of hand-to-hand fighting in the streets of Grozny, with young Russian soldiers once again being cut to ribbons by nimble rebel veterans, and the languid unconcern of the Moscow authorities, was even more so. Mr Yeltsin was tired, unwell and preoccupied with preparations for his inauguration. Defence minister Igor Rodionov and interior minister Anatoly Kulikov, whose troops were being slaughtered, surrounded, taken prisoner and in some cases running out of ammunition, took no particular interest in events in Grozny until the end of the week.

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Tadeus Reichstein

Nobel wizard of new medicine

PROFESSOR Tadeus Reichstein, who has died aged 99, was a pioneering organic chemist and 1950 Nobel prize-winner whose method of synthesising vitamin C is still in wide use but who is best known as the "father" of the anti-inflammatory steroids.

In the thirties, Reichstein extracted the hormone complex produced by the adrenal cortex (the supra-adrenal glands) and, through the synthesis of a cortisone-like compound, provided the first treatment for Addison's disease. Although Reichstein published his preliminary findings in 1933, the complexities of the research were such that the work was not completed until 1956.

In 1935, Reichstein believed that the gramme or so of highly active compound, which he had painstakingly extracted from about a ton of cattle adrenal glands, was a single hormone which he called cortisol. Very quickly, however, his research revealed that the preliminary findings containing the many related but subtly different hormones now known broadly as the corticosteroids. Over a period of 20 years, he and workers in America identified the biological activity of more than 40

different substances produced by the mammalian adrenal cortex, many of which have vital roles.

Some were shown to possess anti-inflammatory properties while others were found to have specific activities in biological functions ranging from mediating the immune response, the control of development of nerves in heart muscle and the determination of sex, to the rate of metabolism of sugars. Of these vital steroids about 30 were isolated, structurally determined and synthesised by Tadeus Reichstein and his group at Basle University.

For this work, which helped to create the modern bridges between organic chemistry and medicine, but particularly for the isolation of cortisone, Reichstein and the American clinical pharmacologist Hans Kosterlitz were awarded the 1950 Nobel Prize for Physiology or Medicine. By this time it had been shown that in addition to cortisone (corticosterone), there were at least two other highly active useful hormones, hydrocortisone and the less publicised aldosterone — which controls the salt-water balance of the body.

While Reichstein isolated and explained the structure of aldosterone in the mid-fifties, the first partial synthesis of



Tadeus Reichstein... honoured throughout the world

cortisone was carried out in America by H.L. Sarett, based on Reichstein's work. All three steroids quickly occupied major niches in pharmacology.

Reichstein and his collaborators were among the first to investigate the biochemical mechanisms which control the production and release of particular hormones by the adrenal cortex. It was quickly realised that the use of anti-inflammatory steroids as drugs resulted in a shut-down of the adrenal cortex and the disruption of the immune system.

Clinical investigation showed that once drug-induced feedback mechanisms have brought about a reduction or cessation of cortex function, recovery can take place only slowly and, in extreme cases, may not occur at all. Hence the therapeutic need for carefully tapered withdrawal of the anti-inflammatory steroids, over months or more, if these have been used at high dose levels, and the need to recognise that these drugs involve long-lasting inherent risks.

Before starting his work on the adrenal cortex, Reichstein focussed on the structure and properties of plant glycosides, such as digitals, and on the aromatic compounds of coffee and chicory. These have de-

Thomas Mitchell

Concrete achievements

THOMAS "Tom" Mitchell, who has died aged 90, was an architect-engineer who, in the fifties and sixties, was responsible for some of the earliest precast, reinforced-concrete frame buildings in Britain. Among his achievements were the Waring and Gillows depository in west London, the first multi-storey precast frame in Britain, erected in a mere 14 weeks to the amazement of visiting Russians, and the department of engineering at the RAF College, Cranwell, which was then the largest concrete frame in existence in the country.

While giving Mitchell and the firm which bears his name, a place in the post-war history of British architecture, these are scarcely recommendations for contemporary public opinion, which abhors the systems building used for factories, hospitals, housing and schools. But, if ever there was an example of why it is intellectually disreputable to project contemporary social malaise on to the work of pioneers, Tom Mitchell was the exemplar.

Very Scottish, very methodical, he was a born researcher, who, to the end of his life, kept a notebook in which he filed ideas and observations. He had realised early on that he was in a profession on the verge of a paradigm shift, in which new techniques would have huge implications for society. These techniques were intellectually exciting since they would revolutionise the building industry.

They were also, of course, the product of their time. They grew out of wartime inventiveness with mulberry harbours, bridge caissons and advanced airstrips, in which Mitchell also played a part. As a lieutenant-colonel in the Royal Engineers, he was in command of a construction group which, within four days of landing in Normandy, had built an operational airfield for British troops. This was widely recognised as instrumental in depriving the Nazis of air supremacy and in saving Allied troops from enemy dive-bombing.

Tom had been there sketching in 1928. Out came the notebook to prove it.

A study of the planning problems of the A25 route back in 1963 was a case study of why it was important to integrate road planning with other aspects of urban social planning. Mid-sixties' work on a national building found him deeply concerned with the role of local government and health authorities.

The seeds of Mitchell's vision for an era of industrialised building, and a simultaneously changing society, were sown in the twenties. As a student at the Glasgow School of Architecture from 1925-28, he had swept up several Beaux Arts prizes; for pencil sketches of medieval and early Renaissance buildings throughout Europe, and for essays on such subjects as



Mitchell... vision for an era

the influence of France on the architecture of 16th-century Scotland. At the same time, he was competing in designs for petrol pumps and qualifying as a structural engineer. In the thirties, he worked on school and airport construction and design, and campaigned as a young Turk within the RIBA.

Many of his friends remember him, and Annie, for gentle achievements like garden design. But the intellectual rigour was the same. A son of ours on a school exchange which, by chance, placed him with the owners of a famous Florentine villa, found himself being questioned closely on the eighties' disposition of laws and fountains. Tom had been there sketching in 1928. Out came the notebook to prove it.

After the birth of their son, Harry, when Ruth was 40, their lives changed. Derek gave up work and Ruth pursued her writing. Ruth's plays were not going to bring the success she hoped for, but her energies into her career as an editor. She had joined the BMJ as a secretary in 1976 but later became books and media editor and set up the journal's weekly opinion column. She quickly developed an enviable rapport with her writers. As one of them, Professor Jim Wolfe, said: "If Ruth liked it, it didn't matter what anyone else thought." Her own reviews were among those readers remember best, reflecting her wide reading, impressive memory and sharp wit.

The editor, Richard Smith's widely quoted and fully justified description of her as "the most talented writer we have had on the BMJ" would have been met with a surprised, self-deprecating laugh and a gentle change of subject. She avoided office meetings whenever possible, preferring to discuss things one to one or in mildly subversive groups in the kitchen.

E T Mensah

A high time for highlife in Ghana

ET MENSAH, who has died aged 77, was the Ghanaian king of highlife, Africa's first popular music form. His career stretched from the thirties to the eighties and his influence reached all corners of Africa.

Highlife evolved in Anglophone West Africa during the 1920s, when dance bands began to fuse traditional rhythms and techniques with calypso, jazz and Latin music. As the name implies, it was enjoyed by the expanding African middle classes, who paid high prices and followed a strict dress code in the dance clubs.

Born in Accra, Emmanuel Tetey Mensah's talents were nurtured at school by "Teacher" Joe Lamptey, who turned a schoolboy band into the Accra Orchestra in the early thirties. Mensah, who was always known as "ET", joined as a piccolo player, progressed to saxophone, also learned the organ, and later took up the trumpet.

After leaving school, he teamed up with his brother, Guy, and the drummer Guy Warren (Kofi Ghanaba) in the Accra Rhythmic Orchestra. "We urgently wanted to replace the fading foreign music of waltz, rumba, etc. recalled Mensah. "We introduced a music relying on basic African rhythms, a criss-cross African cultural sound, so to speak. No one can really lay claim to its creation. It had always been there, entrenched in West African culture. What I did was give highlife world acceptance."

Music was a precarious occupation, so ET, who had studied pharmacy again, contented on work as a pharmacist. He qualified in 1943 and



Mensah (right) in 1937 with J A Mallet in the Accra Rhythmic Orchestra

was sent to northern Ghana, returning to Accra in 1947 to form the original Tempos band with Joe Kelly and Guy Warren.

In 1948, Mensah formed his own band — still called the Tempos — with a new line-up and revitalised, more modern instrumentation, such as amplified guitars. He used a variety of local rhythms, while his lyrics — ranging from romance to ironic social commentary — were in the main Ghanaian languages, as well as English.

His relaxed style immediately became popular and when he recorded his first 78rpm discs he was proclaimed the king of highlife. In 1953, the Tempos were Ghana's only fully professional band, a status they maintained with frequent, lucrative Nigerian tours.

That year, Mensah also made his first solo trip to London, where he performed with many jazz regulars in Soho's African clubs.

In 1956, he was invited to meet Louis Armstrong — then on an Africa tour — and played with him in front of enormous crowds. With Ghana's independence the following year, Mensah briefly had his own club, the Paramount, and the Tempos' West African tour, which spread with him in several heads of state, was officially backed by Kwame Nkrumah's government. Mensah's early popularity was uncontented — there were few other local highlife acts, and his records were well known. In Nigeria, he played at the club of Bobby Benson, who had formed the first Nigerian highlife band.

By the sixties, ET was practicing pharmacy again, content to be a semi-professional musician, saying that he had

never expected to earn a living from music. In 1968, however, aged 50, he took a new Tempos line-up to Europe for a three-month tour.

During the seventies and eighties, brass, dance-band highlife was overtaken by guitar highlife, funk and other forms. Yet having been the musical accompaniment to the independence era, highlife always had a place in the hearts of West Africans.

In 1986, a show was given in Mensah's honour in Nigeria, and later that year some of his earliest recordings were re-released by the British label Retroactive. Despite falling health, which meant he could barely walk, ET took the stage again at the Africa Centre, London, following up with a short Dutch tour.

His music's revival in television advertising, documentaries and CD-Rom encyclopaedias provided Mensah, who was virtually housebound, with a welcome income in his twilight years. His contribution to Ghanaian and African heritage was never forgotten. In 1989, he was formally honoured by the Ghanaian government for his contribution to the country's culture. He leaves a wife, Beatrice, and 14 children.

Ruth Holland

Gifted editor

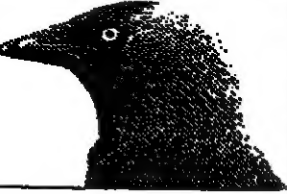
RUTH HOLLAND, who, at the age of 54, was killed in the train crash near Watford Junction last week, spent most of her working life as an editor on the British Medical Journal.

Her great ambition, however, had been to be a playwright. This led her from an English degree at University College, London, through job stacking shelves in a supermarket, to the secretaryship of Hampstead Theatre Club, where she met her future husband, Derek, in 1967. After their marriage in 1970, while following Derek around England with his work as a stage director, she wrote several plays which were successfully staged on the repertory circuit.

After the birth of their son, Harry, when Ruth was 40, their lives changed. Derek gave up work and Ruth pursued her writing. Ruth's plays were not going to bring the success she hoped for, but her energies into her career as an editor. She had joined the BMJ as a secretary in 1976 but later became books and media editor and set up the journal's weekly opinion column. She quickly developed an enviable rapport with her writers. As one of them, Professor Jim Wolfe, said: "If Ruth liked it, it didn't matter what anyone else thought." Her own reviews were among those readers remember best, reflecting her wide reading, impressive memory and sharp wit.

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Jackdaw



Hidden shot

DEAR Gun Tests: Your articles in the January 1996 issue were most timely. The market for compact, concealable firearms of a serious calibre will continue to grow due to the impact of the federal magazine restrictions and the trend towards more liberalised concealed weapon permit laws. As one wrestling with the dilemma of choosing between the reliability and proven stopping power of the .357 Magnum, and the greater fire power of the compact .40 Smith and Wesson (particularly the Glock 27), it would have been helpful to see a side-by-side

comparison: the Glock 27 compared with the S&W 4013 and the S&W 640-1. Keep up the good work. Lance A. Ito, Los Angeles. The Judge goes shopping. The letter to the editor by Judge Lance A. Ito appeared in the April issue of Gun Tests: The Consumer Resource For The Serious Shooter, a newsletter published in Deltona, Florida. Reprinted in Esquire's.

Earth bound

CROP circles are not caused by little green men in flying saucers, say Hampshire farmers. So convinced is the county NFU that vandals are responsible for the mysterious shapes that it is offering a £1,000 reward for information which will lead to the capture of those doing the damage. "We tend more towards the view that that they are man-made," says William White, local NFU spokesman. "As far as we know we are the only county in the country doing this sort of thing and it might lead to the first successful prosecution against a crop-circle vandal."

Farmers who are definitely not taking part in the current revival of speculation of life on other planets. Country Life.

Lazy life

LISA CHIN is sitting on a stool at the Starbucks on Columbus Avenue and West 67th street. Ms Chin plays the upright bass and she baby-sits. "I feel like I'm loafing," she admits. "Everything has a price to it, and what I do doesn't get me any money. My husband is also a professional loafer. He does or doesn't work on a consulting basis. We're sort of Bohemian by vocation. We try to be happy instead of wealthy. I feel loafing is a very important part of our culture." Seated nearby is Keith Kloor, 33, who says he's in a "transitional phase". As he wastes his time sitting in a cafe, he's contemplating the biggest time-waster of all, graduate school. Seems he's also "loafing to land positions." He looks up from an article on eco-psychology. "It's in its infant stages," Mr Kloor says in a confidential tone of voice. "The philosophy

behind it is intriguing, but I don't see how you can make a living out of it." Guess what, Keith, you can't. "Sometimes," he says, "I wonder about what all the people are doing here. Do they have jobs?" And you Mr Kloor? He answers with the perfect logic of a lumiac: "I came because it was raining out." The self-described "oldest living graduate student", 36-year-old David Varquez, is poring over a guide of Ecuador. He looks smug. "My friend," he begins not making eye contact. "I have all I can do to wake up in the morning. I'm off this summer. Loafing? My whole life has been a loaf." When asked how he's financing his pursuits, Mr Varquez snaps: "I don't care to elaborate how I'm supporting myself." "My friend," he begins not making eye contact. "I have all I can do to wake up in the morning. I'm off this summer. Loafing? My whole life has been a loaf." When asked how he's financing his pursuits, Mr Varquez snaps: "I don't care to elaborate how I'm supporting myself." "My friend," he begins not making eye contact. "I have all I can do to wake up in the morning. I'm off this summer. Loafing? My whole life has been a loaf." When asked how he's financing his pursuits, Mr Varquez snaps: "I don't care to elaborate how I'm supporting myself."

and that's where I'm going in two weeks." No! I'm afraid to ask one of my stock questions, but duty calls: What are you doing at this exact moment? "I was heading to the bathroom because I just bought these OB tampons," she explains helpfully. "I've never used OB before, but I was thinking 'travel' and at the drugstore I realized that OB boxes are much smaller, so I better start getting used to them now. On the road I don't want the Tampax box with me, because I could bring an extra shirt. If I go with OB I don't have a problem with the applicator thing. You only need to use your finger with OB to put it in place." George Curley asks "Why aren't you at work?" to the loafers caught loafing in New York this summer. New York Observer.

Painful laugh

IMAGINE your life's so perfect that you can do anything you want. You have a lovely partner and two children, and you're wealthy and famous enough to indulge every whim of your creativity,

What could possibly go wrong? Well, some psychologists say that humans aren't built to withstand vast stretches of unadulterated happiness: ex-Eurhythmics star Dave Stewart may be a case in point. Dave recently confessed that his life's so fantastic that he's developed "paradise syndrome", a condition which has him inventing fictitious complaints — in Bangkok he ordered himself a



Skin Two... slave trade

needless appendectomy as if to atone for too much going his way. Not much sympathy forthcoming for Dave, I fear. Healthy Living. Thanks to Diana Caypey.

Hurting hols

FANCY a couple of days away from the hustle and bustle of the city? Then the Country House could be just the ticket — if you're up for some B&B with your B&B. Established by lifestyle romantics Madam Sang and Master R in upstate New York, the Country House offers SM-ers the chance to stay at an isolated location combining beautiful countryside, pleasant accommodation and a fully equipped dungeon à la Westward bound. Couples are especially welcome at the Country House, and the dungeon is available for private scenes. But Sang and R enjoy participation, so their own unique domination style is always at visitors' disposal. Domination at the level Sang and R practice it is a real commitment. If you opt to

have them in your dungeon fantasies, be prepared to be exposed to intellectual as well as physical demands. If you're primarily a physical sensation seeker, and not likely to get off on constant recitation of mantras about "the purpose of the slave", this might not be your ideal scene. If, however, you could really go for being met off your two-hour train ride up the Hudson by two complete strangers in full perv gear, and being taken blindfolded in the back of the car to an unknown dungeon in the middle of nowhere, this is definitely your holiday. Dinner here comes with a twist as you'll be expected to eat on the floor. Face down, hog-tied in 50 feet of rope by orlistal bondage expert Sang! Holidays to make you scream with delight in Skin Two.

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FinanceGuardian

Manufacturing prices give Clarke rate cut scope

Friction with Bank predicted by City

Sarah Ryle

HOPES that the Chancellor, Kenneth Clarke, will cut interest rates despite opposition from the Bank of England were given a fresh boost last night as factory gate price inflation fell to its lowest rate for almost 30 years.

There is now heightened speculation in the City that the next meeting between Mr Clarke and Eddie George, the Bank's Governor, will be a heated one, as it emerged that input prices paid by manufacturers also fell, suggesting a lack of inflationary pressure in the pipeline.

The core measure of producer output prices fell by 0.1 per cent last month, taking the annual rate of increase to 1.5 per cent, the lowest rate of growth since 1967.

Headline output inflation, which includes food and petroleum prices, was negative in July, for the third month in a row, which brought the annual growth rate down to 2.2 per cent from 2.5 per cent in June, according to the Office for National Statistics.

The Treasury welcomed the "exceedingly good figures"

and pointed to July's 6.7 per cent fall in input prices paid by manufacturers for raw materials as a sign that inflationary pressure will remain benign.

Input prices are seen by the authorities as a guide to future output inflation, which would be expected to keep high if prices rise down.

There is separate evidence today from the British Retail Consortium that consumer spending was restrained in July. The BRC suggests that the Chancellor has room for manoeuvre on interest rates after its monthly sales indicator showed the strong growth of May and June in the like-for-like value of sales slowed in July to 5.4 per cent.

The BRC's chief economic adviser, Andrew Sentance, said this more moderate activity in the retail sector should allay fears that consumer spending could be rising too quickly.

He said: "Calls for higher interest rates to head off inflationary pressures are premature, to say the least."

Although the Bank of England last week warned against a further reduction in the base rate, currently 5.75 per cent, suggesting that Mr Clarke would have to

raise rates in order to guarantee his 2.5 per cent underlying inflation target. City analysts said the latest figures could prove too tempting for him.

"These numbers put the advantage in the policy debate back with the Chancellor after the Bank of England's bearishness last week," said David Coleman, an economist at CIBC. "The Bank may yet be proved right on a two-year basis, but on a near-term view of inflation, Mr Clarke still has the edge."

Other analysts pointed out, however, that the Bank's quarterly inflation report had factored in a temporary easing of price rises.

David Bloom, of HSBC James Capel, said: "The Bank specifically warned against using the temporary dip in inflation as a rationale for a rate cut while ignoring the forward-looking demand indicators, which are pointing to robust growth in 1997."

Julian Jessop, of Nikko, said: "This is old news as far as the markets are concerned and they have shrugged off the producer prices figures."

But, he added: "There is next to no chance of a rise in rates and I think there would be no harm in another 25 basis points cut. The Chancellor will probably want to see some evidence that the manufacturing economy is weak to justify it."

The City is expected to wait until Thursday, when the official Retail Prices Index for July is released, before altering its view on base rates.

Watchdog seeks curbs in water bosses' pay

Chris Barrie

THE row over pay and perks in the water industry intensified yesterday when Ian Byatt, the sector's regulator, called on City investors to crack down on executive pay and perks.

As the Labour Party opened an assault on the industry's track record in corporate governance, Mr Byatt unexpectedly stepped up the pressure by revealing that he had asked institutional shareholders to curb water company directors' pay and long-term benefit packages.

A senior official from Mr Byatt's Office of Water Services (Ofwat) said that the director-general had raised the issue of executive pay with City investors in a series of briefings earlier in the year.

Although he had no means of taking action over the issue, Mr Byatt was keen to see investors "grasp the nettle" by forcing senior manage-

ers to fall into line on pay and perks.

The regulator's unease comes as his counterparts in the gas and electricity industries take centre-stage this week in controversial price-capping exercises. Professor Stephen Littlechild is to unveil proposals for curbs on the National Grid today, while Clare Spottiswoode is set for a showdown with British Gas at the end of the week over controls on profits at its Transco pipeline and storage division.

Mr Byatt is understood to believe that the controversy over water industry pay is undermining public confidence in the regulatory system. An official said executive pay was "an issue of public concern" and large shareholders were "best placed" to deal with that. There was still a low level of customer satisfaction with water company performance, despite the fact that it was improving.

The spokeswoman said:

"The good work is spoilt by issues like salaries, perks and the fat cat issue."

Ofwat's move came as Frank Dobson, Labour's environment spokesman, branded water company chiefs "shameless in their greed".

Releasing details of his gains worth £20 million, Mr Dobson said new long-term bonuses had little to do with customer satisfaction but were about financial performance.

Water and power company United Utilities said it had explained its remuneration policy to investors. A spokesman said: "The political and media furore has contributed to the public getting the wrong impression of the success of the industry."

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Call for customer to benefit from deregulation of cheque-clearing

Jill Papworth

THE National Consumer Council called on the Government yesterday to ensure that customers rather than banks should benefit from plans to speed up cheque-clearing.

"We are calling for customers' accounts to be credited as soon as the collecting bank or building society receives the funds," said an NCC spokesman.

Under its deregulation initiative, in November the Government now plans to scrap an archaic law which requires banks physically to send cheques back to the paying branch before payment is made.

This opens the way for banks to invest in electronic procedures to cut the time taken and the cost of clearing cheques.

The NCC said: "We want a guarantee that any time saving the banks make as a result of this change in legislation will be passed on to the customer."

Under current proposals, banks will be under no legal obligation to do this and the fear is that they will sit on cleared funds, reaping interest on them through the money markets.

Rebel Names' case delayed

Pauline Springett

REBEL Names at Lloyd's of London were yesterday forced by lack of funds to postpone a legal challenge to the insurance market's rescue plan.

The judicial review of the plan, due to have started yesterday in the High Court, is now scheduled tomorrow.

If they are successful, the disident Names could torpedo the insurance market's survival plans—a risk underlined yesterday by Lord Justice Brooke, who warned that it could have the effect of an "executed missile" on Lloyd's.

He said he was unclear if the Names were aware of the explosive nature of the ruling they were seeking. But he ruled that they were entitled to an adjournment.

The disident Names are members of the 1,253-strong Paying Names Action Group (PNAG). They believe the settlement offer is unfair because it does not give Names credit for losses paid to date.

Microsoft chips in to assist ailing Apple

Mark Tran in New York

APPLÉ Computer, wallowing in red ink, has been quietly receiving help from an unexpected quarter—arch-rival Microsoft.

The software market leader has been helping small software companies write Internet programmes for Apple, an effort that will cost it millions of dollars. But Microsoft chairman Bill Gates believes that is a small price to pay to keep regulators off his back.

He is worried at the prospect of anti-trust challenges should Apple collapse.

Microsoft yesterday tried to play down fears about regulatory action, pointing out that the company has been committed to Apple's Macintosh



The ancients... George Washington's statue and the stock exchange PHOTOGRAPH: DON MERRIS

Wall Street to march into history (or hit Broadway)

Mark Tran in New York

IT IS THE citadel of free enterprise — to its fans, it is the ultimate bastion of fiscal freedom, and to its enemies, the Kremlin of capitalism. Now, nearly seven years after the fall of the Berlin Wall, another unthinkable event in post-war history could be imminent — the departure of the New York Stock Exchange from Wall Street.

Of course, the Big Board's imminent rehoming has little to do with the long-predicted collapse of the capitalist system. On the contrary, it is the logic of private enterprise that threatens to turn Wall Street into "Wall Street", in the manner of "Tin Pan Alley" and "Fleet Street".

The building, a replica of a Greek temple designed by George Post, just isn't up to the technical demands of today's wired-up brokers. As a result, it is likely to be converted into luxury flats as the market seeks a suitably high-tech home for the 21st century.

It has been at its present base, at the corner of Wall Street and Broad Street, for 98 years. Although the exchange added a 23-floor tower in 1923, it has outgrown the present facilities and is poorly equipped for new technology.

A decision to leave would be a wrench even by New York brokers' ungenerous standards. It was from here that the 1929 crash shook the world. Here, 56 years later, Ronald Reagan became the first US president in office to visit the exchange.

Mr Reagan promised the biggest bull market in history, and he delivered — for two years. In October 1987, the exchange saw the largest drop in the Dow Jones industrial average — 508 points. The feel-awful factor and "culture of insecurity" followed.

Ronically, a figure from the roaring eighties, developer Donald Trump, has already jumped in with his proposal for the new exchange headquarters — the two towers just below the South Street Seaport, which would afford brokers spectacular views of the Brooklyn Bridge and the East River.

Mr Trump also has plans to build the world's tallest building close to the new exchange site.

An alternative scheme, backed by New York's city fathers, would move the exchange to a 1.5 million sq ft site on perhaps the only other road in New York to match Wall Street's renown — Broadway.

Microsoft quietly set up the unit in San Jose, California, last year to direct the programme, which is expected to employ about 60 people, mostly long-time developers of software for the Mac system. For Apple, Microsoft's lifeline will come as a relief and a humiliation.

Apple has prided itself on its software know-how, traditionally scoring Microsoft technology. But Apple needs all the help it can get.

The company is trying to claw its way back to profitability after losses of almost \$600 million in the past 12 months under the new leadership of Gilbert Amelio, who has initiated the policy of détente with Microsoft. Although Apple has set its sights on the Internet, independent Macintosh software developers have been frustrated at what they describe as Apple's slow pace on Internet matters.

Microsoft is already the leading supplier of software for the Mac. In fact, because of the popularity of Microsoft's range of software products, the company usually makes more money on the Mac than does Apple.

But now Microsoft programmers will be free to ignore the company's flagship operating system and write only for the Mac.

Notebook

No room for the inns at Lonrho



Edited by Mark Milner

LONRHO'S flotation of its hotels business looks awfully timed. With the boom in the worldwide hotels cycle not yet at its peak, Lonrho is guaranteed investor interest in the Princess Metropole flotation. That in turn is likely to translate into a price some way ahead of what the business could have commanded a year or so ago.

The new company has good brand names, and since Forte was taken over by Granada the City has been short of a pure hotels business to put its money into — witness the success of the Millennium and Copthorne flotation earlier this year. Those factors should be enough to offset a less than auspicious new issues market.

The speed with which the flotation has been announced — only six weeks after Lonrho resumed full ownership of Metropole Hotels — also shows just how committed the chief executive, Dieter Bock, is to breaking up the group completely.

Apart from the £300 million or so that Lonrho will pick up from the hotels flotation, the rather mixed bag of African businesses is also on track to be floated off separately by Christmas, raising (perhaps) another £300 million.

This would effectively leave Lonrho as a mining company with a cash pile of some £500 million — a far more attractive proposition than the unfocused, debt-laden conglomerate it was at the start of the year.

That point will not have escaped potential predators — with South Africa's Anglo-American already being touted as a possible bidder.

By breaking up Lonrho, Mr Bock may be demonstrating his determination to rid the company of the legacy of his predecessor, Tiny Rowland. But if he is able to do so with the speed and at the prices now being talked about in the City, it will be a back-handed compliment to Mr Rowland, who assembled Lonrho's rather idiosyncratic asset portfolio in the first place.

the Romans — though it would be interesting to know just how much private finance went into building either Hadrian's Wall or Watling Street and the extent of public sector in the canal and railway booms.

The snag appears to lie in a conflict of cultures. The private sector finds it baffling, not to say frustrating, that the public sector wants to retain the right to manage to the point of specifying the brand of teapoons in a hospital canteen, to use an example provided by the Institute. On the other hand, according to the ASI, the public sector does not seem willing to recognise that tendering for multi-million-pound contracts is not simply an academic exercise with no serious cost implications.

The ASI wants Whitehall "minders" to cut the red tape and for the PFI to be taken away from the Treasury and given to the deputy prime minister, Michael Heseltine. The Treasury says it is already looking at the idea of minders, but it is unlikely to take kindly to losing influence over such a financially important sector.

As for Mr Heseltine, he is in danger of becoming to administrative headaches what the National Lottery is to high-profile problems which get blamed on shortages of cash. Successful PFI projects, however, are likely to be rather harder to achieve than medals at the next Olympics.

Rats to rate cuts

THERE is something slightly uncomfortable about the way almost any set of UK economic data these days is judged against the yardstick of a possible cut in interest rates.

The Treasury can be allowed its obvious pleasure in the picture of subdued inflationary pressures revealed by the latest manufacturing output figures, but it is worth noting that the Bank of England had factored in a temporary easing in prices pressures when it called recently for a pre-emptive strike against inflation through higher rates.

Of course the Bank appears to have a somewhat elastic view of the timing of that strike but its general message that rates will have to go up is singularly less ambiguous.

The Chancellor however is judged to be contemplating a rate cut for reasons which have more to do with politics than economics — hardly surprising in the run-up to a general election.

But would cutting base rates by a further one percentage point prove crucial to the Conservatives' electoral prospects? Does the economic need it? The answer in both cases is that it would probably not make that much difference.

In the light of the balance of argument between cutting or raising rates, the sensible course might well be to leave them on hold. Even if the Bank is being overly hawkish on inflation, a further cut in rates seems to present the greatest risk for the least reward.

All uphill for PFI

THE Adam Smith Institute has some predictably harsh words to say about the Government's public finance initiative (PFI). The "pro-business" (its own description) think tank reckons that bidding for PFI contracts is too expensive, too risky and too bureaucratic — which is why the programme is running well behind the targets set for it.

Not that the institute is against the PFI per se. It reckons that, run properly, it could be the best thing for Britain's infrastructure since

Welsh miners given tough deadline for buy-out study

Martin Haisall Northern Industrial Correspondent

THE crisis facing the Point of Ayr colliery, the last deep mine in North Wales, escalated last night after its owners said production would cease at the end of next week. The deadline is far shorter than miners' leaders have requested to test the pit's long-term viability.

Problems emerged after National Union of Mineworkers' officials asked for at least a month to prepare a feasibility study. The 130-year-old colliery was last week offered to its 300-strong workforce for £1.5 million by owners RJB Mining, hours after the company announced its "immediate" closure.

A majority of the workforce voted at the weekend to commission a study, which began yesterday. Yesterday Bill Rowell, RJB's managing director for deep mines, said he believed the men would know if a buy-out was viable "within very much less than four weeks. I would certainly not want to pull the rug from under them at an advanced

stage. If they can put a deal together we shall be as helpful as we can be."

His statement followed the emergence of other possible alliances for a miners' buy-out team. Today NUM representatives are expected to meet officials of Clay Collieries, an opencast mining company, to discuss a possible partnership takeover.

RJB, which operates 20 deep mines, blamed the pressure on consistent losses, totalling around £5 million, and said the pit lost money on 38 of the 40 weeks it was in RJB's ownership.

The company offered to transfer any miner who wanted to new work to other pits. It plans to remove the mining machinery and redevelop the colliery site, subject to planning permission, for alternative industrial uses.

Miners taking over the pit are expected to face problems raising cash for development and new markets. RJB says it could satisfy Point of Ayr's markets from other sources. It was assessed by British Coal in 1991 to have only 8.38 million tonnes of low-risk reserves and has since extracted 2.4 million tonnes.

TOURIST RATES — BANK SELLS

Australia 1.3225	France 7.58	Italy 2.204	Singapore 2.1425
Belgium 15.59	Germany 2.215	Malta 0.5375	South Africa 4.85
Canada 2.0725	Greece 357.75	Netherlands 2.4	Spain 188.75
Cyprus 0.59	Hong Kong 11.70	New Zealand 2.195	Sweden 10.15
Denmark 6.8125	India 58.31	Norway 9.825	Switzerland 1.760
Finland 6.8225	Ireland 0.935	Portugal 229.50	Turkey 122.275
	Israel 4.88	Saudi Arabia 5.78	USA 1.5785

Sourced by NatWest Bank (including inter-bank rates and bank spreads)

BAT split planned as cancer case hits shares

Lisa Buckingham

THE tobacco-to-insurance group, BAT Industries, will next month discuss whether to split its operations into two after last week's US court ruling which found it guilty of causing lung cancer.

Shares in BAT yesterday plunged 45p to 464p — cutting the company's stock market value by almost £1.4 billion — following the decision to award nearly £300,000 in damages to an long standing smoker who developed lung cancer.

A Florida jury decided last Friday in favour of retired air traffic controller Grady Carter and his wife against Brown & Williamson, a BAT subsidiary. Mr Carter, 66, had been a smoker for 44 years, most of that time as a consumer of Lucky Strikes.

He claimed BAT had been negligent not to warn of the health damage associated with cigarettes smoking.

BAT said it was confident, as in other cases, of overturning the judgement on appeal. If the group fails, however, it will be the first time a tobacco company has been forced to pay damages. Industry sources are concerned that a host of similar lawsuits might follow.

"The case doesn't make the industry culpable," said Martin Feldman, an analyst at Smith Barney, the American stockbroking group. "It will be overturned."

Analysts said yesterday that internal documents used in the latest case should not have been allowed as part of the trial. An appeal was therefore likely to succeed.

But US companies are feeling the pressure from at least ten state governments which are suing to recover the alleged billions of dollars they have spent nursing smokers under their Medicaid budgets.

The shares in other cigarette producers such as RJR Nabisco and Philip Morris were also savaged after the judgement.

BAT admitted that it might look at spinning off its financial services operations — which include Farmers in the US and Eagle Star and Allied Dunbar in Britain — at some stage.

But a spokesman said the latest US court ruling would not dictate policy. Though BAT has a history of amending its corporate structure as a result of outside influences such as James Goldsmith's £13.5 billion break up bid.

A BAT spokesman said, however, that directors were convinced that additional shareholder value could be created from combining insurance and tobacco. The decision on Friday was "a vague verdict, not a trend," the company said.

BAT found itself in court after acquiring Lucky Strike cigarettes which were part of the portfolio of American Tobacco which was acquired by the British group early last year.

News in brief

Sainsbury in talks with Royal Ahold

SAINSBURY said yesterday that it was talking to Royal Ahold, the Dutch supermarket group, about possible acquisition of a dozen of Ahold's American supermarkets. Sainsbury, which already owns a number of stores in the United States trading under the name Shaws, said it expected to make a further announcement in the next few weeks, but it would not put a figure on the likely sum involved in the deal, which City analysts expect to be in the region of £50 million. Meanwhile, Sainsbury received a fillip yesterday, when Audits of Great Britain said the company's market share had revived to 21.1 per cent, from 20.6 per cent, while its arch-rival Tesco's share fell from 22.8 per cent to 22.0 per cent. — Ian King

Merger terms 'one-sided'

INSTITUTIONAL shareholders are becoming concerned that a merger between the Insurers Refuge Group and United Friendly, announced last week, is too generous to the holders of full voting shares in United Friendly. While the institutions are supportive of the £1.46 billion merger, industry sources said they were concerned that full voting shareholders, who include members of United's founding family, would receive four times as many shares in the new company, United Assurance, as other shareholders. Institutional shareholders include Britannic Assurance, Mercury Asset Management, Prudential and Legal & General. — Reuters

Long overdue debt up

A RISE in the average value of long overdue debt, to a four-year high of £176,000 per company, was announced yesterday by a leading credit insurer. Trade Indemnity's quarterly financial trends survey showed that the companies suffering most were builders' merchants, food manufacturers and business services firms. The survey supplied fresh evidence that manufacturers were coping with stock overhangs, as the rate of purchase of goods and services needed for future production fell. — Sarah Ryle

Bank predicts house price rise

HOUSE prices could rise by 10 per cent over the next two years, Barclays Bank said last night, following its latest monthly mortgage lending survey results. They showed total monthly lending on property rose by 5 per cent in July, contributing to an overall rise of 27.5 per cent in mortgage activity against the same time a year ago. Barclays predicted continued growth in the housing sector, as new mortgage commitments also rose by 22 per cent against July last year. — Sarah Ryle

Bayer profits leap 13pc

BAYER, the German chemicals group, announced yesterday a 13 per cent jump in half-year pre-tax profits, to DM2.7 billion (£1.2 billion), helped by spectacular growth at overseas operations. Bayer, which makes drugs, plastics and industrial products, said domestic sales had risen only slightly during the period. However, the company insisted that it was still on target to achieve a 6 per cent improvement in worldwide sales. — Ian King



Ebb tide... The Baltic exchange trading floor has become little more than a social meeting place in recent years. PHOTOGRAPH: GRAHAM TURNER

Shattered past, uncertain future

In the first of a series on London's little-known multi-billion pound exchanges, LISA BUCKINGHAM finds problems at the Baltic Exchange

UNTIL four years ago, only a smattering of the population would ever have heard of the Baltic Exchange. Then an IRA bomb shattered two-and-a-half centuries of obscurity but left the Exchange gazing down the barrel of its modern destiny. The 1992 bomb wrecked the Baltic's Grade II listed St Mary Axe headquarters — the replacement for which has sparked a bitter row between the Exchange and English Heritage and the City Corporation — but it made the organisation rich thanks to a £26 million insurance settlement. But the windfall created its own problems. Some Baltic members now claim the mar-

ket's 54,000 shares should each fetch between £500 and £600, rather than the present £10. Indeed, an investor is believed to be attempting to float Baltic rules by building a substantial share stake. However, domestic problems are the least of the difficulties facing the Exchange, which was founded in 1744 as one of London's famous coffee houses, the Virginia and Baltic. Its future was thrown into doubt late last month by an inland Revenue raid on Kappa Maritime, a Greek shipping company which is part of the business empire of Lou Kollakis, one of the UK's richest men.

Although the incident appears to be a one-off, it reignited fears among London's Greek shipping community that its favourable tax status is under threat. When President Kennedy took a less benign approach to non-domiciled shipping groups, it annihilated New York's position as a major maritime centre. Without expatriate Greek shipowners — estimated to account for at least one-third of the market — the Baltic Exchange could face a similar fate. Membership of the Exchange did rise a fraction to 670 companies last year and trading on the floor of its new building was initially more vibrant than it had been for years, but the Baltic, like other markets, faces longer term threats. Even though world trade has been growing, there has been a move away from bulk ships towards the time-tabled services operated by container ships. And governments are more inclined to sell goods, such as grain, on the basis that cargoes are carried by the national flag ships, which deprives the open market of these huge contracts. The rapid decline of the

British merchant marine has clearly affected the traditional heartland of the Baltic which, in a consultative paper with Aims of Industry, it sought to address by proposing a British "Lag of convenience" to attract overseas owners to London. But the most potent threat comes from technology. As shipbroking has become a

Baltic officials will have to redefine role of the market if it is to prosper

younger profession, Baltic traders have followed the trend evident in other exchanges — most crucially, face-to-face dealing on a trading floor is foreseen for a quick chat on the phone and an E-mail confirmation. Cargo contracts have also become larger and more complex, so less easily decided by a handshake. Even older brokers admit that the trading floor of the Baltic does, of course, perform other functions — it acts as a centre for foreign-owned shipping, which then plugs into the insurance, banking, loss adjusting and other professional maritime services offered by London. In all, it is estimated that this provides the UK with about £2 billion of foreign exchange earnings a year. Baltic officials also act as a semi-official conduit between

WPP moves to exploit surplus

WPP Group, the world's largest advertising company, has plans to buy back its own shares, raise dividends, launch acquisitions and increase capital expenditure, to boost returns from surplus liquidity. Announcing a jump in first-half profits of 40 per cent to £88.1 million, the London-based parent of agencies J Walter Thompson, Ogilvy & Mather, Worldwide and Conquest Europe said it had won new business in the United States and Latin America. It added that the US presidential elections and the Olympics were likely to boost profits in the second half. In the first half, WPP won new business billings of £387 million from companies including ICG Global Communications, a UK satellite telecommunications company, and an additional assignment from Warner-Lambert. Billings include the price paid for media space and time. The group has come a long way since the cash crisis of 1990, when debts were \$1 billion (now \$645 million) and its market value slumped to £28 million. The chief executive, Martin Sorrell, said net average debt had fallen from £217 million to £169 million, while bank borrowings were down from £178 million to £78 million. "Average net debt has now fallen 55 per cent from £273 million three years ago. If we meet our objectives for the end of this year we should be investment grade," he added. Geographically, the group made its greatest progress in the US and Asia Pacific/South America. These managed 14 and 15 per cent growth in revenue respectively and accounted for 43 and 18 per cent of total group revenue. Overall, revenue jumped 13.7 per cent to £833.2 million, and the group indicated that revenues for July were up 10 per cent because demand for advertising time in the run-up to the US presidential elections, due in November, and coverage of the Olympic Games, had pushed up prices.

Trafalgar burden drags on Kvaerner

PROFITS at Norwegian shipping and engineering group Kvaerner have been badly dented by its £204 million acquisition of the loss-making Trafalgar House construction group. Kvaerner's half-year profits to the end of June were nearly 56 per cent lower than in 1995, at £71.3 million. Erik Tonseth, Kvaerner's president and chief executive officer, said: "The group's performance during the second quarter of the year was significantly affected by the acquisition of Trafalgar House, on 18 April." But Mr Tonseth insisted that there was good reason for optimism about the future and added that cost-cutting measures designed to blend the two businesses together were now underway. Kvaerner has already started a £1 billion disposals programme. Mr Tonseth pointed to the 48 per cent rise in sales to

Itching to sell artificial skin

SMITH & Nephew, the health-care group whose consumer products include Elastoplast and Simple soap, yesterday unveiled a 5 per cent rise in first-half profits to £90.8 million, despite continued tough trading conditions in America. But the company predicted that its foray into the higher-profit hi-tech sector of artificial skin would deliver extra sales of up to \$500 million (£323 million) a year by the turn of the century. Although Dermagraft is currently aimed at the specialist diabetic foot ulcer market in America, the company is clearly confident of its acceptance even at a time when health-care reforms are making new sales and improvements in profit margins hard to secure. If S&N achieves \$600 million of revenue on its new product, that would be the equivalent of half its chosen market, and analysts predict that artificial skin has much more to aim for worldwide and in wider applications. The company's half-time results were in line with expectations as strong sales in Europe, Asia and its domestic UK market offset stagnating demand in the US, where sales revenue rose only 1 per cent to £233.1 million. Shares slipped just 1/4p to 199p. The group's health-care division — which manufactures artificial limbs and bone products — raised its sales by 14 per cent to £454.7 million. That amounted to nearly twice the level achieved by the consumer business, which also includes brands such as Nivea and Lil-lets tampons, and where sales were ahead 8 per cent at £24.7 million. Apart from the US, it was Britain which provided S&N with its toughest market conditions, and sales were pushed up by 4 per cent to £86.5 million. That compares with growth rates of about 10 per cent achieved in the less developed trading areas of Asia, Africa and Australia, while continental Europe delivered growth of 9 per cent at £131 million.

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مكتبة ابن الجوزي

TRIUMPH FOR JOCKEY AFTER SIX MONTH WAIT



Whip hand... Walter Swinburn makes final adjustments before his winning return at Windsor yesterday

PHOTOGRAPH: TOM JENKINS

Swinburn back with a winner

Chris Hawkins on a comeback that had racegoers cheering

WALTER SWINBURN, the jockey who returned to racing yesterday after his life-threatening fall in Hong Kong six months ago when winning on his first mount back, Talathath, at Windsor.

Six months ago as he lay in a coma with head, shoulder and rib injuries after Liffey River had wrapped him around the running rail at Spa Tin, it looked long odds against him ever riding again.

turned down. My goal was to come back as soon as I could but they moved the goal posts. The carpet was pulled around my feet and it wasn't until later that I was told that for insurance purposes I had to have a minimum of six months off.

Perry talks himself into major defeat

David Davies on a crazy few minutes that handed the US PGA title to Mark Brooks

THE UNCONSIDERED Kenny Perry played 17 near-perfect holes in the final round of the US PGA Championship at the Valhalla Club in Kentucky on Sunday.

A series of tragicomic errors led to him conceding a play-off, then losing it to Mark Brooks, who duly became the 78th PGA champion, winning his first major and \$276,000 into the bargain.

But Perry hooked his drive "my first bad shot of the day" and it finished in the bluegrass rough which, as a knuckler, he knows well. But knowing it and getting out of it are two different things and Perry failed the first time, advancing it maybe 100 yards but still in the rough.

He sat there obviously enjoying himself and, to the astonishment of everyone, stayed there while Brooks, from the front bunker, hit a recovery shot to five feet and holed the play-off putt.

Trainer awaits tests on 'poisoned' horses

Ken Oliver LAURA SHALLY, the Derbyshire permit holder, who has lost three of her string in mysterious circumstances, expects the results of samples taken from the dead horses to be known today or tomorrow.

when falling on Mr Sox, who is trained by Shally, at Southwell on July 19. Shally has refuted allegations that Mr Sox had raced with a cracked pelvis.

sure that the return was victorious and rang Swinburn's agent last week offering the ride on his gelding who had just won easily at Brighton.

Ice Hockey

A legend temporarily goes to the Devils

GLENN ANDERSON, Gower of six Stanley Cup rings, will play for the Cardiff Devils this month. The former Edmonton Oilers forward, 36 in October, will join the club at their week-long training camp in France next week and play their pre-season game against Stuttgart at Cardiff on August 28.

Bath card with guide to the form

Table of horse racing results for Bath, including race numbers, names, and winners.

Southwell (N.H.)

Table of horse racing results for Southwell, including race numbers, names, and winners.

Results

Table of horse racing results for various tracks, including Wincor and Worcester.

Southwell (N.H.)

Table of horse racing results for Southwell, including race numbers, names, and winners.

Advertisement for RACELINE featuring a phone number (0930 1684) and a list of race results.

'Heroes? We don't even have anti-heroes these days. We're stuck with the likes of Vinnie Jones and Phil Tufnell'



Paul Weaver
PLEASE excuse me if this question sounds rude but is there any one out there? I mean, there's no point in me banging on it if I'm addressing a void, is there? And as I reach for my

Zelus 10x25 for a quick abuity I fear the worst. There is a reason for this disconcertment. I found all those empty seats at the Leeds Test most depressing, as I did the yawning space at Crystal Palace for Sunday's Performance Games. I wasn't actually at Healding, you understand, or Crystal Palace for that matter, but I saw it all on my Sony Nicam and, from all accounts, so did you. There are more stay-aways in sport these days than you can shake a remote control at. After years of queuing and fighting for a car park space and to avoid a spillage of boil-

ing Bovril, of being barged, abused, rained on, spat on, overcharged and messed about by jobsworth gatekeepers, Joseph Public, looking as grim as Schopenhauer when the milkmen hasn't come, has picked up his Thermos and sandwiches and headed for the great indoors. The hot ticket is for 28 Acacia Avenue. An Englishman's home is his audi-visual centre and this is the age of BSkyB, cable and net, with pay-to-view and digital television just a commercial break away. Any one who has attended major sporting occasions knows very well that you see everything much better on the box.

You attend an event to feel the atmosphere and then pop home to see what actually happened. I once followed the Tour de France for a week but it was only when I got home to Channel 4's excellent coverage that I discovered what had really been going on behind the woosh of colour and the whiff of garlic and Genoloses. But there is, perhaps, another reason beyond TV, the increasing number of events and spiralling ticket prices. Could it be something to do with the drabness of our sportswear? Botham and Mansell have gone and today we have Hemman and Hill. I know

people who watch England at cricket and football so they can be entertained by the opposition. When it comes to declining attendance football appears to be the exception. Chelsea attracted crowds of 10,000 and 14,000 to Exeter and Swindon recently - and these were only friendlies. There were 23,000 at Wolves for a similar kick-out with Rudi Gutllig's side while Sunday's Charity Shield match between the Uniteds of Newcastle and Manchester brought in 73,000. But there is a League of Nations exodus and a flood of TV money which has carried the domestic game towards its

current boom. But where are the British players? Heroes? We don't even have anti-heroes these days. When this heady young backfield Andy Cogo, and he has the clever-trick look of one of Fagin's young pickpockets. To err is human, to forgive divine, and this cricketer has discovered that the selectors are only human. But the piece Tufnell tells us he has changed. He is 30 now, has a new wife and, he says, spends more time at the garden centre among the petunias than he does at the pitch. He adds that he has called down, goes up the lads in the dressing-room and would be

good at man-management 'because I know what it's like to be an awkward sod'. Well, sorry Tuffers, but I find it hard to believe. At 30 one is beyond fundamental change. We are all character actors, as Wells had it in Tono-Bungoy. We all collect baggage as we move through life but Tufnell's Deley and Sansonites are so swollen he can barely lift them off the carouse. But the shape and colour of sport can change, and it has. And in many arenas it's turned grey and uninviting. But I do hope to see you again soon. In the meantime a postcard would be nice.

Soccer Leeds seek a long Sharpe shock

Michael Walker sees a £4.5m soldier in Wilkinson's new model army sign up

LEEDS United's rolling rebuilding continued yesterday when Lee Sharpe formally put pen to paper in front of a small gathering at Elland Road: the 25-year-old midfielder was bought from Manchester United over the weekend for £4.5 million and has signed a four-year contract. The signing was low-key without even a hint of an Elvis impersonation from Sharpe as he was introduced in the news media and about 130 fans. Given the hype and the multitudes that turned out for Alan Shearer last week, only for Newcastle to be humiliated at Wembley, it was probably a good thing. Or perhaps English football is so rich at the moment that a £4.5 million fee no longer causes a stir. That, however, should not detract from the possible importance of the signing for both Leeds and the player: Sharpe is hoping the move will bring a return of the attacking verve that earned him the last of his eight caps two years ago, while Howard Wilkinson has captured a player capable of exerting influence on the left of his restructured midfield. Having lost the "Gary" element of that area - Speed to Everton and McAllister to Coventry - Wilkinson has found the "Lee" factor in the shape of Bowyer of Charlton Athletic and now Sharpe. With Nigel Martyn from



Today Elland Road, tomorrow England... Lee Sharpe arrives at Leeds where he hopes to leap back into international reckoning

Crystal Palace and Ian Rush from Liverpool already on the books - and the chairman Bill Fotherby saying "More signings are a certainty" - Leeds will soon be fielding a significantly different side from last season. According to Wilkinson, still admirably dour with the news media, the new faces have already given the dressing-room a lift. "At the end of last season," he said, "it was certainly not the happiest." Carlton Palmer has been made club captain - "The responsibility will do him good" - and Rush team captain. "He has surprised me," Wilkinson said of Rush's work pre-season, before identifying

the Welshman's qualities. "He's modest, determined and ruthless... on the pitch." Rush has played in all Leeds's pre-season games while several other players "have come back looking better than they have for two or three years". Added to that, "Lee Bowyer is a better player than I thought he was." Wilkinson is not counting his chickens, though, and he emphasised the length of time it takes for a team to develop character and its own personality: "A lot of that depends on playing real, hard matches, not friendlies. I'm still not content with the squad I've got, otherwise I'd not be chasing more players."

And he has the money: the successful taking over of the club by the Caspian Group has brought an injection of funds that has enabled Wilkinson to spend £9.35 million so far this summer and, having recouped £7 million on Speed and McAllister, he has about £10 million left of the reported £12 million available. He will emphatically not be spending most of that on Trevor Sinclair of QPR. "I've spoken to Ray Wilkins about players - with an S - but I couldn't and I wouldn't spend £8 million on that particular player," Wilkinson confessed to "actively pursuing" others but, of course, names were not mentioned.

One player the Leeds manager did feel happy to commission upon was his latest acquisition, Sharpe. Wilkinson said, has been bought "to do what he does best, which, I think, is create problems for opponents on the left. "I don't think I'm buying an unknown quantity here; his pedigree is without question. Glenn Hoddle phoned me last week and complained about the dearth of left-sided players in the country. I said to Lee, slightly tongue-in-cheek, 'I'll phone Glenn and say we might have solved his problem.' Lee Sharpe has come to Leeds feeling he's got something to prove." Sharpe agreed with that and emphasised his determination to return to England

reclaiming his title. He described leaving club after eight years as "a weird experience" but knew his opportunities there were likely to be increasingly limited. "My chances of regular first-team football were getting a bit harder. I went to see the manager [Alan Ferguson] on Thursday. He told me that he didn't want me to go, so I was preparing for a season of battling to get into the first team. "Then I spoke to Mr Wilkinson and I had a gut feeling. It didn't take me long to make my decision. I'm still ambitious, there's a World Cup in two years and I want to be part of it."

Motor Racing Williams shuns duel control and team orders

Alan Henry on the thrilling match-race building up between Hill and Villeneuve

DAMON and Jacques have been told quite specifically that the only team orders are not to take each other out of the circuit. Apart from that, they are free to get on with it. These words from a Williams insider - just prior to Villeneuve's split-second victory over his team-mate Hill in Sunday's Hungarian Grand Prix - have cleared the decks for what promises to be a thrilling no-holds-barred match-race for the world championship over the season's remaining four races. Without the Williams pair battling each other there would be little in the way of close racing, given the relative uncompetitiveness of their main rivals. And, while Hill unquestionably remains the favourite as the slightly faster man, the Briton's 17-point lead over the French Canadian is by no means impregnable. It would take only another couple of bad starts - or another mechanical failure - to dymise Hill's title hopes and allow Villeneuve to make history as the first Formula One driver to win the championship in his first season. Frank Williams' understandable reluctance to impose team orders is not simply a matter of contractual obligation - both Hill and Villeneuve enjoy equal status - but a reflection of his passionate belief that his drivers are entitled to race each other with the same zeal they deploy against those from other teams. Cruelly, however, this even-handed strategy has worked against Williams in the past. In 1986 Nigel Mansell and Nelson Piquet were allowed to

Pools Forecast table with columns for FA CUP, NATIONAL LEAGUE, SECOND DIVISION, and various football clubs.

Blackburn step up pursuit of £3.5m Elliott
BLACKBURN were yesterday close to completing their first big-money signing of the summer after reopening the transfer gateway with Newcastle for the £3.5 million-rated Robbie Elliott.

Sport in brief
South Africa yesterday dropped the full-back James Small from the side to face New Zealand on Saturday after reports of late-night partying. But they picked the hooker Henry Topp, who was jailed for assault in 1993 after a blank employee died from a beating.

Results
Rugby League
Leeds 14-10 Wakefield; Wigan 14-10 Bradford; Hull 14-10 York; Salford 14-10 Rochdale.

Teamtalk
The Independent News and Reports Service Call 0891 33 77+
England 39, Scotland 28, Ireland 15, Wales 14, France 10, Italy 8, Spain 6, Portugal 4, Greece 3, Turkey 2, Czech Rep 1, Slovakia 1, Hungary 1, Poland 1, Slovenia 1, Croatia 1, Serbia 1, Montenegro 1, Macedonia 1, Bosnia 1, Herzegovina 1, Kosovo 1, Albania 1, Bulgaria 1, Romania 1, Moldova 1, Ukraine 1, Belarus 1, Lithuania 1, Latvia 1, Estonia 1, Finland 1, Denmark 1, Norway 1, Sweden 1, Iceland 1, Faroe Islands 1, Gibraltar 1, San Marino 1, Vatican City 1, Monaco 1, Andorra 1, Liechtenstein 1, San Marino 1, Vatican City 1, Monaco 1, Andorra 1, Liechtenstein 1.

Cricket
Australia 2-1, West Indies 2-1, Pakistan 2-1, Sri Lanka 2-1, Bangladesh 2-1, Zimbabwe 2-1, Kenya 2-1, Uganda 2-1, Rwanda 2-1, Malawi 2-1, Swaziland 2-1, Lesotho 2-1, Botswana 2-1, Namibia 2-1, South Africa 2-1, New Zealand 2-1, India 2-1, Bangladesh 2-1, Zimbabwe 2-1, Kenya 2-1, Uganda 2-1, Rwanda 2-1, Malawi 2-1, Swaziland 2-1, Lesotho 2-1, Botswana 2-1, Namibia 2-1, South Africa 2-1, New Zealand 2-1, India 2-1.

Cricket table showing scores for various matches including Australia vs West Indies, Pakistan vs Sri Lanka, etc.

Teamtalk advertisement for The Independent News and Reports Service, featuring a call number 0891 33 77+ and a list of sports news items.

Cricket
Australia 2-1, West Indies 2-1, Pakistan 2-1, Sri Lanka 2-1, Bangladesh 2-1, Zimbabwe 2-1, Kenya 2-1, Uganda 2-1, Rwanda 2-1, Malawi 2-1, Swaziland 2-1, Lesotho 2-1, Botswana 2-1, Namibia 2-1, South Africa 2-1, New Zealand 2-1, India 2-1.

Cricket
Australia 2-1, West Indies 2-1, Pakistan 2-1, Sri Lanka 2-1, Bangladesh 2-1, Zimbabwe 2-1, Kenya 2-1, Uganda 2-1, Rwanda 2-1, Malawi 2-1, Swaziland 2-1, Lesotho 2-1, Botswana 2-1, Namibia 2-1, South Africa 2-1, New Zealand 2-1, India 2-1.

Cricket advertisement for NatWest Trophy Semi Finals, featuring a call number 0891 22 88+ and details about live commentary and ticket prices.

Vertical sidebar on the right edge of the page containing various advertisements and logos, including 'The Guardian Cricket England & Pakistan', 'Scoreboard', 'County champions', 'Foxes', and 'The Guardian' logo.

Cricket

England v Pakistan: second Test, final day

England selectors drawn into dilemma

Mike Selvey at Headingley

ONCE England had failed to take the initiative on the first morning this was always going to be a difficult game for them to win and, as expected, it meandered to a draw yesterday.

After battling themselves to safety on the third day and

Scoreboard

Table with 2 columns: Team/Player, Runs/Wickets. Includes Pakistan and England scores.

then into the lead on Sunday they still had the vaguest of chances yesterday but victory depended on some incisive bowling. Although the seamers, in particular Andrew Caddick and Dominic Cork, operated effectively Pakistan were never in any real danger of collapse and, with half-centuries from Ijaz Ahmed and Inzamam-ul-Haq, reached 247 for seven — a lead of 196 — when Wasim Akram declared and the teams called it a day.

There is something vaguely familiar about the way this series is panning out. Two years ago South Africa won the first Test at Lord's and then played out a draw at Leeds. At The Oval Devon Malcolm produced one of the most destructive spells of Test-match bowling to level the series. England are now required to repeat that win to share the spoils in this series.

Although re-laying this pitch strangled the life out of it, making batting easier than anticipated, much fell into place during this game. Stewart's century which brought him the Man of the Match award showed that his feet are moving him into position better than at any time over the past two years, while the vitality and confidence shown by Nick Knight and John Crawley was a revelation.

The selectors have a dilemma on their hands, however. If they are to have a chance of winning at The Oval, they need all the bowling they can get. If a batsman is to drop out it will be Crawley or Knight and by no means is it clear-cut that the latter would retain his place purely on the basis that he had made a century.

Certainly his left-handedness helped to counter the threat of Wasim Younis in particular but there is a belief that Crawley is the only batsman in the England side who can read Mushtaq's leg spin.

Nor will the performance of the bowlers here have made selection any easier. Yesterday Cork bowled his best spell of the match up the hill from the Football Stand and, gaining some rhythm and test movement, and he collected the wicket of Saad Anwar, caught behind off his second delivery. But with Darren



Moment to savour... a rare wicket for Michael Atherton as his Lancashire team-mate Wasim Akram is trapped leg-before

Gough and maybe, Malcolm waiting in the wings, Caddick did most to stake a claim for the next match, striding stiffly down the slope and taking the wickets of Inzamam, Salim Malik and Ijaz at a cost of 52 runs. His bounce and occasional hostility on a docile pitch would be amplified by the surface at The Oval. Lewis is the most likely to be rejected.

One player who is certain not to be relied upon as a front-line bowler is the Eng-

land captain, although when the game was entering its death throes Atherton tugged off his cap and bowled seven overs of respectable leg spin. Given the state of his back, bowling is low on his list of priorities; he had not turned his arm over in a Test match since Sydney in 1991.

One wicket for 282 had been his career figures before yesterday and one good clump would have lifted him ahead of the Sri Lankan Wijesuriya for the worst average in Test

history. But Wasim offered no stroke to the most gentle of leg-breaks and after long deliberation was given out leg-before by Steve Bucknor. Inzamam's was the innings of the day, a knock played in much the same languid manner of those that had graded Lord's. At times he lived dangerously, such as when he spliced Caddick over the slips, but some thunderous strokes brought him nine boundaries, including a hook off Caddick that almost de-

feated the eye. In the same over, however, he top-edged an attempted cut to Stewart at third man. The last day had been watched by a small gathering and it provided a contrast to the drunken debacle of the weekend when the behaviour of the Western Terrace once more put in jeopardy the future of international cricket here.

Limiting the amount of alcohol that can be brought into the ground is only a part solu-

tion and merely leads to larger bar profits for the Leeds Cricket, Football and Athletic Company. A complete ban seems more realistic. However, the new England Cricket Board will need to look long and hard at its sponsors. Tolley put around \$1 million a year into the England team but it is not morally right for cricket to encourage people to drink and then criticise them when they get drunk.

Rugby League

Wigan three to take on RFL

Paul Fitzpatrick

WIGAN'S Va'anga Tuigamala, Gary Connolly and Henry Paul are on a legal collision course with the Rugby Football League, which is threatening to bar their planned moves into rugby union.

Maurice Lindsay, the game's chief executive, has told all 13 Super League clubs they must seek permission before releasing players to union. "I am sick of reading about our best players moving to union," said Lindsay. "The Wigan-Bath games look to have opened up the floodgates. Now we must close them again."

The three Wigan backs are expected to sign short winter contracts soon. Tuigamala with Wasps, Paul with Bath and Connolly with Harlequins — but Lindsay warned that News Corporation, who are putting a total of \$67 million into the game, did not want to see Super League diluted by players going part-time.

But David McKnight, agent to the three players, said he was surprised the RFL was involving itself in this way and warned: "If it is true, the matter may end up in a solicitor's hands."

McKnight pointed out that Connolly has not received any loyalty bonus from Super League. He has, in fact, signed a contract with the Australian Rugby League, which he is due to join in 1998.

The agent added that none of the three Wigan men has any desire to leave rugby league. "They are merely looking for the opportunity to play for five months when Leeds Cricket, Football and Athletic Company. A complete ban seems more realistic."

However, the new England Cricket Board will need to look long and hard at its sponsors. Tolley put around \$1 million a year into the England team but it is not morally right for cricket to encourage people to drink and then criticise them when they get drunk.

County championship: Glamorgan v Leicestershire

Foxes confounded by last pair

David Foot at Swansea

ALL of that intensive bonding by Leicestershire, appearing to the wide-eyed St Helen's spectators as if it verged on religious fervour, was ultimately in vain as Glamorgan's last pair held out for a draw in this absorbing example of last-day cricket.

Glamorgan had been challenged to score 335 in 86 overs. With eight balls left, Gibson, who had batted so

well for a second time in this match — let us politely forget his bowling, which theoretically is more crucial to him as he hopes for a new contract — was bowled by Macmillan. That left only Metson and Kendrick with a straggled hand. Glamorgan finished on 289 for nine.

Yet at one stage Leicestershire, so astutely captained by Simmons, had looked in danger of losing. Morris was sixth out after four hours of controlled and calculated batting. His 106, with 17 bound-

aries, was his fourth hundred of the season. Only Alan Jones has scored more in total for the county.

The 11 points Leicestershire took from this match put them a single point behind Surrey at the top of the table. Their slow bowlers, Brimston, Pierson and Macmillan, all found consistent spin — and wickets — in this swaying contest.

By the end they had every fielder round the bat. They played like impassioned sibilings, chorusing their regular

appeals, superstitiously swapping caps, going in and out of little arcane circles as one Glamorgan batsman after another walked off.

Over the first 29 overs Glamorgan had scored without loss and their daunting target was looking less inaccessible. Then James was leg-before to Simmons; after that a succession of home players trifled with native affection with not taking on the spinners. Maynard was sleeping like the most mature of batsmen before he needlessly charged, to be stumped. Cottee, the double-century maker, was this time out as he swung inelegantly. Butcher was brilliantly run out by Habib; Croft went at extra cover.

Leicestershire had declared at 231 for seven. Of the four wickets that fell in the morning three went to Croft, giving him four for 47 and a justifiably approving word from the Test selector David Gray.

Swansea would never complain if the matches here, which are also on the decline, contained such competitive drama. Glamorgan even viewed at one stage a third win in a row. And finally one comes back to Leicestershire's second collapse of the day.

Scoreboard

Table with 2 columns: Team/Player, Runs/Wickets. Includes Glamorgan and Leicestershire scores.

County Table

Table with 4 columns: Team, Runs, Wickets, Overs. Lists various county cricket teams.

Bevan and Law keep counties on weather alert

YORKSHIRE and Essex will take keener interests than ever in this morning's weather forecast as they prepare for the NatWest Trophy semi-finals at Old Trafford and The Oval, writes Paul Weaver.

The Australians Michael Bevan of Yorkshire and Essex's Stuart Law have to be at Heathrow Airport tonight to fly out and join their fellow countrymen in Sri Lanka. If the forecast is bad and today's matches look like going into second days, both could be left out. The ACB has refused to delay their departures.

Law has the shorter journey while Bevan faces a 220-mile journey from Old Trafford, where Yorkshire play Lancashire. Yorkshire have hired a helicopter to air-lift Bevan to the airport but Richard Kettleborough, 23, stands by for his debut in the competition. "It's a shame I shan't be able to play at Lord's but, if I can get the side to the final, that's a job well done," said Law.

The Final of the NatWest Trophy is only a day away.

NatWest advertisement with logo and slogan 'More than just a bank'. Includes a small graphic of a banknote.

How Kenny Perry missed his major, page 13
Sharpe leads Eiland Road influx, page 14

Pakistan's nerve holds firm, page 15
Wigan giants on collision course, page 15

SportsGuardian

SOCCER SACKINGS START WITH A SHOCK BEFORE THE SEASON BEGINS

Arsenal ditch Rioch and look abroad

Cruyff, Wenger top wanted list

Martin Thorpe on a departure that has left players and fans confused and angry

ARSENAL are poised to join the continental drift by appointing a foreign manager to replace Bruce Rioch, who departed the club yesterday less than a week before the start of the new season.

Top of Arsenal's wanted list are Johan Cruyff, the former Dutch international and Barcelona coach who was in London over the weekend, and the Frenchman Arsene Wenger, who has long had admirers on the Arsenal board but is also thinking over an offer to become the FA's technical director.

A big name is essential to placate the fans after a pre-season filled with bad results and adverse publicity, and Arsenal said yesterday that they expect to name a successor shortly.

Rioch's departure comes almost 14 months after he was hired by Arsenal to do a clean-up job following the George Graham bung scandal which dented the club's image and contributed to the team flirting with relegation.

His sudden departure so close to the new season will have left fans and players bewildered. "It is just unbelievable," said the Arsenal forward Paul Merson. "Four or

five days before the start of the season I don't think it's fair on the fans or the players.

There has been a growing rift between Rioch and the man who runs Arsenal, the vice-chairman David Dein, for many months now, leading to what insiders call a poisonous atmosphere between the two camps.

Ironically the fans had taken Rioch's side, shouting abuse at Dein after a recent friendly in Florence and planning more protests leading up to the club's annual general meeting on August 22.

They blamed him rather than the manager for the fact that, despite the Premiership transfer ban, Arsenal have signed only the free-transfer goalkeeper John Lukic this July, since paying £4.75 million for David Platt on July 10, 1995. This is despite Arsenal being linked with players ranging from Leonardo to Rui Costa.

Fans put this failure to strengthen an ageing squad down to Dein's insistence on doing the negotiations himself, a policy adopted to avoid a repeat of the control of transfers enjoyed by Graham.

But it is understood that Rioch, having told Dein which players he wanted, began to lose faith in his vice-chairman's ability to persuade players to join the club, privately complaining that, of 28 players submitted to Dein, Rioch had not been allowed to speak to any of them.

This was one of the central reasons why Rioch refused to sign a contract. Finally Rioch did sign at the end of last month after being strongly urged to do so by the Arsenal chairman Peter Hill-Wood. It makes yesterday's news even more puzzling.

Rioch's track record was encouraging, if not startling. He led Arsenal to a place in Europe this season with a side boosted by the addition of the club's record signing Dennis Bergkamp. But even here there has been controversy, with the deal and Platt's transfer reportedly subject to investigation by the Inland Revenue.

Team affairs will now temporarily be in the hands of the assistant manager Stewart Houston, who fulfilled a similar role after Graham's departure, and the coach Pat Rice.

The club has ruled out the new youth coach Liam Brady being appointed manager, though another former player, David O'Leary, is being touted as a possible candidate.

Arsenal have also twice tried to woo Terry Venables into the job but the chances of a third attempt proving successful are thought unlikely, given his new commitment to Portsmouth and his pending court cases.

A bigger surprise still would be the return to Highbury of Graham, still to find a new club since his one-year ban expired last month. The front-runners remain Cruyff, who won the European Cup with Barcelona, and Wenger, though he is contracted to the Japanese club Nagoya Grampus Eight until November — both respected coaches with a reputation for playing attacking football.



On his way... Rioch has been officially 'released' after his 14 troubled months at Highbury. PHOTOGRAPH: STEVE LINDELL

High-stake game with two losers

David Lacey says the latest dismissal at Highbury diminishes the club's reputation

THE sudden departure of Bruce Rioch from Arsenal, less than a week before the start of the new season is a gift for the cynic. In this instance it is, indeed, hard not to take the cynical view that Rioch was merely minding the manager's office at Highbury until somebody else came along.

How else is one supposed to react? No sooner has Rioch finally signed a three-year contract when the Arsenal board calmly announce that they have decided "it was in the best long-term interest of the club that Mr Rioch should now leave".

Perhaps Mr Rioch's biggest mistake was in waiting 14 months to decide that it was in his best long-term interests to become George Graham's successor on any kind of permanent basis. Even as he was telling the Arsenal Club that everything had been signed, settled and sealed, the bookmakers were refusing to take any more bets on his imminent departure.

Then again, whoever had to pick up the pieces in the wake of Graham's dismissal in February last year was always going to be on a hiding to nothing. Graham left Highbury in disgrace but remains Arsenal's most successful manager since Herbert Chapman in the Thirties.

The next Arsenal manager will inherit a similarly awkward legacy. Under Graham Arsenal won two championships in three years as well as the FA Cup, two League Cups and the Cup Winners' Cup. Highbury is now a stadium fit for the 21st century. Arsenal and their followers are impatient to find another successful team to go with it.

Rioch seemed to have captured the mood of the moment last summer when he signed Dennis Bergkamp from Internazionale and David Platt from Sampdoria. At last Arsenal were back among the big spenders. Not for long, however.

That Arsenal should switch managers at this point betrays their desperation at seeing Manchester United and Newcastle United apparently poised to contest the Premiership. The stakes have been

raised, and Arsenal are still looking anxiously at their hand.

Rioch's successor will have to rebuild an ageing defence as well as find someone to provide the creative touches in midfield that were never Arsenal's hallmark even when Graham's teams were winning the league. Bergkamp's skills have had the effect of an artist's brush rather than a draughtsman's contract. The picture has looked prettier but the design is still much the same. Somehow Blackburn's Tim Sherwood, although a solid enough midfielder in the Arsenal mould, may not be the answer.

Now that Arsenal have marked time during the summer sales a recovery will be that much harder to achieve. Alan Shearer's £15 million move to Newcastle will have hiked up the asking prices for other English players and it is bit late to go abroad, even to Scandinavia.

Following Graham's dismissal Arsenal adopted a policy of dealing with the buying and selling of players at board level. Rioch's role was confined merely to suggesting the men he wanted. He did not appear to be happy with this situation. In a way Rioch has become the principal victim of the Graham hangover.

He was Arsenal's second choice, of course. They wanted Bobby Robson, now at Barcelona. Then again, Graham was appointed in 1986 only after Arsenal had made an unsuccessful approach to Barcelona's manager at that time, Terry Venables.

Graham restored to Highbury the stability the club had enjoyed under Bertie Mee in the Sixties and Seventies. Given the manner of his departure and the desperation of both Arsenal and their followers for Premiership success, an unsettled period was almost bound to follow.

Rioch's dismissal is symptomatic of Highbury's growing unease that this time Arsenal have not merely missed the Premiership boat but failed to book a passage. His successor will not only have to sort out the way the team plays, he will need reassurances about the way the club is run.

Yesterday's announcement diminished Arsenal more than it did Rioch. It also suggested that Highbury's problems will not be solved simply by appointing a big name to replace him. There may be more turbulence ahead in London N5.

The front runners



Wenger... Grampus 8 boss has had an offer from FA



Cruyff... ex-Barcelona coach was in London at weekend

The shortest reign

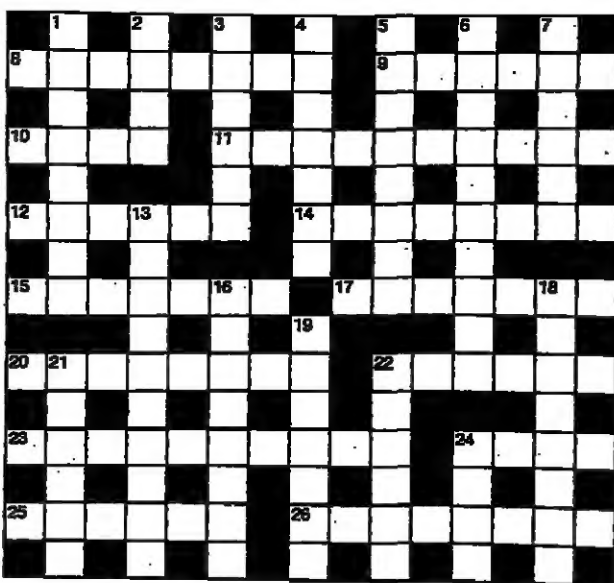
FOR much of Bruce Rioch's time at Arsenal nothing much appeared to be happening. For 14 months the manager refused to sign the contract he was offered. And, though Paul Ince, Zvonimir Boban, Roberto Carlos, Bizente Lizarazu, Clarence Seedorf, Trevor Sinclair, Tim Sherwood and Alan Stubbs, among others, were linked with Arsenal, John Lukic, a free transfer from Leeds, has been the only signing in the past 13 months.

June 8 1995 Rioch joins Arsenal.
June 20 Arsenal sign Dennis Bergkamp for £7.5 million from Internazionale.
July 10 Arsenal sign David Platt for £4.75 million from Sampdoria.
January 17 Sheffield United knock Arsenal out of FA Cup in third-round replay.
February 21 Aston Villa knock Arsenal out of Coca-Cola Cup in semi-finals.
March 10 Ian Wright demands transfer through the News of the World.

May 5 Arsenal clinch UEFA Cup place with last-day win over Bolton.
July 11 Wright agrees new contract.
July 31 Rioch says he has signed a contract. "I am now waiting for the club to counter-offer."
August 1 "The deadline for the first round of the UEFA Cup is August 15," says Rioch. "I would love to think we would have two new players in place by then."
August 12 Rioch goes.

Guardian Crossword No 20,730

Set by Paul



- Across**
- 8 What could be lost in found in procession (8)
 - 9 Solo performance to end shortly — relax (8)
 - 10 Places in lost cities with no street or connections (4)
 - 11 Ale is awful with cream and brown sugar (10)
 - 12 Look up to dream — one is not as it seems (8)
 - 14 Empty granny eats babies — splendid (8)
 - 15 Ballesteros, number twenty, went off two under per es is usual (7)
 - 16 Whoever goes round the bend, there's chaos (7)
 - 20 Indonesians mean to accept policy (8)
 - 22 Fodder is knocked back with bear right away (8)
 - 23 Body not headed by church

- Down**
- 1 Pat is able to rip head off dog (8)
 - 2 What the boozing motorist should call at about eleven (4)
 - 3 The Magic Roundabout? (5)
 - 4 Nobility always entertained by an attendant (7)
 - 5 I'm left no pay — anyhow, it's the taking part... (8)
 - 6 After local moves to provide financial security (10)
 - 7 Spouter may be old fogey, by the sound of it (8)
 - 13 Unfit, i.e. I'll begin jogging (10)

SOLUTIONS
1 PAT is able to rip head off dog (8)
2 What the boozing motorist should call at about eleven (4)
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Venables takes Spurs aide to Pompey

Russell Thomas

CONTROVERSY surrounded Terry Venables' first day as Portsmouth's director of football when it emerged that he had enlisted the assistance of Eddie Ashby, his former backroom aide at Tottenham, to help with the day-to-day

running of the club. Ashby helped set up the deal whereby Venables can take control of the cash-strapped club for only £1 in the next three years. However, Ashby's future remains uncertain: next month he appears in court on charges of acting in a managerial role while being an undischarged bankrupt.

Yesterday Venables revealed that he had decided against investing money in the club immediately. "I did that once before [at Spurs] and I got rather badly hurt. I swore I would never do that again."

England's Euro 96 coach took his first Portsmouth training session yesterday but knows his club time will be limited by legal battles. Venables put it this way: "I have some things I have to do away from football but I'll be spending as much time with Portsmouth as I can."

Venables is buoyant about the challenge but a club currently losing around £7,000 a day presents obvious uncertainties. "I don't know how long I'll be involved with Pompey," he said. "It depends on an awful lot of things."

I've had to respond to a lot of criticism that my Benefit Cheat Hotline panders to the lowest instincts within us to squeal on decorators just trying to earn an officially dishonest day's living, so to counter this charge I've made sure the new system also offers a number of lucrative cash competitions as rewards.

Armando Iannucci takes charge of Operation Snoop

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سكنا من الالجل

A-levels

John Curran Education Editor

M

Inside